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Arab-Israeli Talks

First Session of Peace Talks 8th Round Held 7 Dec

Al-Majali Comments on Session

JN0712214192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, has welcomed an announcement by White House Official Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater that U.S. President Bush will meet with the heads of delegations taking part in the negotiations at the end of this round, which is scheduled to end on Friday, 18 December.

In a press statement at the end of the session of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations this evening, he added that this meeting should help support and give momentum to the negotiations. He said: We welcome a meeting with any party that will contribute to giving momentum to the peace process and to the negotiations.

Commenting on today's session, Dr. al-Majali said: We met today and exchanged views on different issues dealing with water, environment, and energy. We asked the Israeli side to respond to our proposals from the past round in terms of the language that would fully clarify matters. We are still waiting for that response, especially since the Israeli side is seriously thinking of responding to our proposals.

Details of 7 Dec Talks Reported

JN0812103292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The Arab and Israeli delegations concluded their first sessions of the eighth round of bilateral talks in Washington last night. All delegations have welcomed U.S. President George Bush's decision to meet with the chief delegates at the end of this round of talks. Details in the following report:

The Jordanian chief delegate Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in a statement at the end of the session of talks held on the Jordanian- Israeli track, said that during yesterday's meeting an exchange of views took place on various issues pertaining to water, environment, and energy. He added that the Israeli side was asked to respond to the proposals submitted by the Jordanian side during the previous round of talks regarding wording that would make issues perfectly clear. He noted that the Israeli side provided the Jordanian side during the previous round of talks new wording which we deemed unacceptable. Furthermore, the Israeli side asked us to submit new wording. However, we do not have any other wording regarding this issue.

With respect to the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track, it was noticed that the Palestinian delegation had reduced the number of its members. It began the talks yesterday evening with four rather than the usual 14 members. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said that some members of the Palestinian delegation yesterday met with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. The talks focused on the reasons which prompted the Palestinian delegation to reduce the number of its members and the Palestinian delegation's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations. The issue of resuming dialogue between the United States and the PLO was also raised during the talks, she said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian side is willing to involve the remaining members of the delegation and experts in the talks when there is a need to do so, and also when the Israeli side demonstrates a positive spirit and flexibility with regard to the various questions put to it during the previous rounds of talks. She went on to say that the Palestinian side proposed the holding of tripartite meetings between the Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans to activate the negotiations. She noted, however, that the Israeli side rejected this proposal. A spokesman for the Israeli delegation has said that Israel rejects the presence of a third party in the negotiations.

With respect to negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, there has been no sign of the possible issuance of a joint statement of principles. Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf expressed the hope that the Israelis will change their ambiguous stand on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Similarly, there have been no signs of progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track, as the Israelis continue to demand the formation of a working group comprising military experts to tackle the issue of security in southern Lebanon.

The White House declared yesterday evening that U.S. President George Bush will personally meet the chief delegates to the bilateral peace talks. The White House spokesman added that President Bush will meet the chief delegates at the end of this round of talks. The participating delegations welcomed this U.S. gesture. For his part, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that this meeting would help advance the negotiations and push them forward. He added: We welcome the holding of meetings with any party that contributes to advancing the peace process and the negotiations.

'Skeleton' Delegation Criticized

TA0812035892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The eighth round of Middle East peace talks has got underway in Washington with added tension between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. The Palestinians said they had come with a four-person delegation to protest what they charge is a lack of progress in the negotiations. Israel for its part rejected a proposal by the Palestinians that the United States formally enter the talks as an intermediary. As Connie

Lona reports from Washington, the new round of negotiations started on a harsh note as a result of yesterday's attack in the Gaza Strip.

[Begin Lona recording] Israeli officials called the killings a stab in the heart and said they were meant to kill the peace process. Israeli officials vowed this will not happen, but they are disappointed that the Palestinians pared down their delegation from 14 to four to protest the slow pace of the talks.

The Palestinians have formally asked the United States to renew the discussions. The White House says President Bush will meet with the negotiators on the 17th of December, but there is no indication the United States will intervene at this time. The President wants to hold a final meeting with the negotiators to maintain the momentum of the talks during the transition period. For Israel's part, it says it wants to make good use of this round of talks.

Spokesman Yossi Gal says Israel will not follow the Arab lead and wait until the new administration before making progress. He criticized the skeleton Palestinian delegation and called it a clear violation of the Madrid obligations. He said time is of the essence and it is no good to delay any longer. The Israelis also rejected Palestinian efforts to get the Americans into the talks as a third partner. He said the American role is to facilitate but not coerce or interfere.

As for the Syrians, the Israelis hope to achieve a real peace, but the Syrians continue to focus on withdrawal first from the Golan Heights and other areas. With Jordan, the first round of talks have been constructive and issues of substance have been discussed, and with the Lebanese, efforts are under way to establish a military working group to bring security to the border areas. [end recording]

'No Progress' in First Session

NC0812063092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The first session of the eighth round of the bilateral talks in Washington yesterday achieved no progress, while the United States expressed a desire to give new impetus to the negotiations. The White House announced that President George Bush will meet [illegible] the heads of the participating delegations when the round ends on 17 December.

The Lebanese-Israeli meeting yesterday lasted 90 minutes. Following the meeting, head of the Lebanese delegation Suheyl Shammas said that Lebanon did not reply to the Israeli proposal to include military experts in the negotiations because Lebanon wants the Israeli stand clarified, particularly following [head of the Israeli delegation] Uri Lubrani's statements on Friday, in which he said that Israel will remain in the occupied border strip until a peace agreement is reached.

Shammas added that he raised this issue in the meeting and asked for clarifications before Lebanon replies to the proposal. He said: We said that we want to know whether the official Israeli stand is the one received in the negotiations hall or Lubrani's statements on Israeli television last Friday. We will inform the Israeli side of our stand only when we receive a reply to this.

SLA Official Attends 8th Round

NC0812003892 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Hasbaya, Lebanon, Dec 7 (AFP) - An official from Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon is attending the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks which opened Monday in Washington, the South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia radio said.

Shibli Daghir was "invited" to attend the talks underway in the U.S. capital, the radio said quoting the SLA official. It did not say who invited him to the negotiations or which delegation he was with.

Daghir also told the radio that he had attended one of the sessions of talks and described the negotiations as useful. He did not elaborate.

The 3,000-strong SLA has jointly administered with Israeli troops a 1,800-square-kilometer (240 square miles) "security zone" in southern Lebanon since 1985. The militia is trained and financed by Israel.

Lebanese Unaware of SLA Official

NC0812100592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] AFP cited Voice of the South, radio of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], that an SLA representative is now in Washington after having received an invitation to attend the eighth round of bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

When asked about this, the Lebanese delegation to the talks expressed surprise and stressed that it knows nothing about it. If it is true, the delegation said, it conflicts with the framework of the peace process, because the Americans know who all the negotiators are. Observers said that if the report is true, then the Israeli delegation will be willing to create major problems.

Steering Committee Meeting in London Reported

Syria, Lebanon Absent From Talks

TA0112203192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with London correspondent Ya'ir Limor by moderator Kamuti Gay in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Gay] The steering committee of the multilateral peace talks convened for the first time in London today

to decide on the agenda and the topics of the talks. Today's session proceeded uneventfully, because the participants wished to reach an understanding and make progress. Yo'av Lisner is on the phone from London:

[Lisner] As you said, the talks proceeded uneventfully and in a very relaxed atmosphere despite the absence of the Syrians and the Lebanese. Several participants, including the Americans and the Russians, commented on their absence, but this did not affect the talks in any way. The major event today was an argument between the Palestinian delegate and Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin, who heads the Israeli delegation. Reading from a written speech reminiscent of old Palestinian attitudes, he said that Israel is impeding and preventing progress in the peace process. Beilin vehemently retorted, saying that there was no reason for the Palestinians to make such remarks seeing that a peace process is underway. The Palestinian delegate apologized, took back his words, and said that he appreciated the political change in Israel and its wish to advance toward peace.

[Gay] What else was said there?

[Lisner] Most of today's session was devoted to a discussion of the agenda of the five multilateral committees. The Americans decided on the agenda of today's session, the Russian delegate delivered the opening and closing address. The discussions dwelt on the questions of arms control, and were attended by all the European representatives. The Europeans want to pursue their efforts to help all the Middle East countries dispose of the huge amounts of arms.

Another issue raised in today's session was the Palestinian proposal to set up two new committees: one to deal with Jerusalem, and another to discuss human rights. Israel rejected this proposal, and Deputy Minister Beilin said that the question of human rights in any event is being discussed in the bilateral talks, whereas on the issue of Jerusalem, Israel believes that it is not a topic of negotiation, at least not at this stage.

[Gay] What was said about the boycotters?

[Lisner] The Americans and the Russians criticized their conduct. They said that in an era of progress toward peace in our region, that the countries are holding a dialogue now at long last, there is no reason why they should not attend—particularly when the meetings are being held under the auspices of all the European countries, the United States, and Russia—and hoped that they would attend the upcoming sessions.

[Gay] How did Beilin and the others react to this?

[Lisner] Beilin was rather happy to hear that because Israel was there, of course. A few minutes ago he told me that the talks proceeded uneventfully despite everything, and that the absence of Syria and Lebanon had no impact whatsoever and did not impede progress.

PLO Wants Jerusalem Committee

PM0712124692 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-al-'Ala': We Demand Jerusalem Committee for Multilaterals, Baker Promised To Form One"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Ahmad Qurie' (Abu-al-'Ala'), official in charge of the economy in the PLO and general coordinator of the Palestinian delegations to the regional [al-iqlimiyah] negotiations committees whose proceedings began in the British capital today, has emphasized that the first Palestinian demand in this round is the formation of a special working group to discuss the Jerusalem issue in accordance with the promise made to Faysal al-Husayni by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

He said that "the Jerusalem issue can no longer tolerate any postponement in view of the Israeli occupation forces' persistence in erasing the holy city's features and the preparations they are making to build 11,000 new residential units."

Abu-al-'Ala' emphasized that the continuation of the intransigent Israeli position on this issue means torpedoing the peace process as a whole.

He said that "the Palestinian delegation will also demand the full and immediate implementation of UN Resolution 194, which stipulates the refugees' and evacuees' immediate return to their homes, especially as this round is attended for the first time by the United Nations and Palestinians from outside [the occupied territories] along with some 40 states."

Abu-al-'Ala' expressed his satisfaction at the UN presence, which means that the negotiations are based on international legitimacy, whose resolutions they are obliged to implement.

Asked about the effect of the freezing of the bilateral negotiations on the future of the multilateral negotiations, Abu-al-'Ala' emphasized to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that "the bilateral negotiations are the backbone of the peace process, and if they halt, the multilaterals would halt."

He added that "Israel wants to achieve through these negotiations a normalization with the Arab states without ensuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Thus the Arabs must not fall into that mistake, especially as Israel has offered nothing for which it should be rewarded."

He said that "we are trying, through the multilateral negotiations, to push toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace, which is the basic aim of the bilateral negotiations."

Abu-al-'Ala' emphasized the Palestinians' refusal to discuss any regional cooperation before they recover their

sovereign rights over territory and water first, in addition to the existence of Palestinian institutions qualified to implement regional cooperation programs in the various spheres.

Participation in Meeting Detailed

JN0812112792 Amman Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to meetings of the steering committee for the Middle East peace talks held a series of meetings with delegations participating in these meetings. Palestinian developments were reviewed during these talks with the aim of boosting the peace process and leading it real impetus.

The Palestinian delegation, led by brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Qurey'], Fatah Central Committee member, met with [name indistinct], British assistant secretary for Middle East affairs, at the British Foreign Office. Talks dealt with the need for and importance of completing and convening Palestinian representation to include holy Jerusalem, direct PLO participation in the talks, and the formation of two multilateral working groups on Jerusalem and Palestinian human rights. In addition, the talks addressed basic aspects of the bilateral talks.

The delegation also met with Tunisian State Minister Said Mestiri, as part of consultations held to coordinate the positions of Arab parties attending the London meetings. The delegation will continue its meetings with the participating Arab delegations. An expanded meeting at the Egyptian Embassy in London is planned.

The Palestinian delegation concluded its activities with a lengthy meeting with the U.S. delegation led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian. (Dan Curtis), Edmund Hull, and Keith Waters.

During this meeting, the confreres held an in-depth discussion of various aspects of the peace process. They also discussed difficulties standing in its way due to Israeli positions and also because the Palestinian side's rights have not been restored in full, either in terms of direct PLO participation in the talks or in terms of Jerusalem being represented.

The Palestinian delegation affirmed its adherence to the need to make real progress in the bilateral talks and also to the Palestinians' right to control their territory, water resources, and natural resources, to build and empower Palestinian national institutions so that the Palestinian team may become an equal partner with the other parties. The confreres also discussed the importance of activating the steering committee so that it plays a planning role, in terms of organizing the working groups and having the United Nations participate in the steering committee.

The Palestinian and U.S. delegations held a detailed discussion on the responsibilities of the World Bank to the Palestinian people and occupied Palestinian territories.

[The Palestinian news agency] WAFA has learned that the Palestinian delegation, under brother Abu-'Ala', will meet with the other delegations participating in the London meetings.

Delegate Addresses Committee

JN0812090292 Amman Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Dec 92

["Excerpts" of address by the chief Palestinian delegate to meetings of the steering committee of the multilateral Middle East peace talks in London on 3 December—read by announcer]

[Text] It is now more than a year since the peace talks got underway in Madrid. Most observers agree on the greatest achievement thus far: We have not despaired, we have not given in. As much as we are determined to pursue this task, our Palestinian people hold out higher hopes. This is because we are not solely concerned with our interests but with the fate of our homeland and the future of our people. We don't just want this work to continue, we want it to succeed so that peace in the Middle East becomes more than just a cherished goal but a right that must be protected and a [word indistinct] to enjoy. Therefore, we came to this process with the patience of a people as old as history and the yearning of a people that have also been deprived and tortured.

We have always pursued a just, fair, and durable peace. We have always done all in our power—and will continue to do all in our power—to promote this kind of peace.

The Palestinian delegation is encouraged by the partial amendments—introduced at this round of the multilateral talks—to the initial irregular constraints on Palestinian representation and participation. It is a step in the right direction that there are Palestinian representatives at all the multilateral working groups. Not quite fair in principle, it, nevertheless, is a wise step regarding the practical requirements of peacemaking so that wars do not continue to produce victims and orphans.

Our Palestinian people look forward to lifting the remaining restrictions on their representation at the bilateral and multilateral talks so as to reflect the unity of this people and the unity of their representation. The ongoing peace process is a single exercise both in its bilateral and multilateral dimensions. It is an interrelated and complementary process serving the same mission and goal, namely the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The multilateral talks are not an intellectual exercise. They are part of the process to resolve a conflict that cannot possibly be arrested from nor can overtake the bilateral talks that form the backbone of the peace process. Whatever progress is made in the multilateral talks is bound up with what real and substantial headway is made in the bilateral talks that are, deplorably, still marking time. The regional cooperation is not an alternative nor an independent course. It is a natural product of the fruits

of a just peace, and any attempt to portray it otherwise will jeopardize regional security and the overall process itself.

Beilin: Talks 'Very Encouraging'

TA061208109Z Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In Britain, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has predicted that peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors could be achieved in months rather than years. Beilin, who headed Israel's delegation to last week's multilateral peace talks' steering group, added that it was clear Arabs and Palestinians were seriously interested in tangible moves on the road to peace.

As we hear in this report from Jerry Lewis in London, his optimism was shared by the American and Russian cosponsors of the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Yossi Beilin described the atmosphere in the two-day session of the multilateral steering group as positive and very encouraging. Agreement had been reached on some technical decisions, such as the next series of meetings of the five working groups, and two Arab countries—Tunisia and Egypt—had offered themselves as venues for future rounds of the talks. He was pleased that as a result of the new Israeli Government's pragmatic approach many areas of disagreement in the previous talks in Lisbon six months ago had now been removed. Israel, he added, had not attended the London talks to score propaganda points, nor to prove one side right or wrong. It wanted real progress to peace.

[Beilin] I believe that peace is obtainable. I believe that we are on the verge of peace in the Middle East, provided we do the utmost in order to dedicate our energies, to allocate our intellectual resources, and to compromise. And, then, it may be a matter not of years, but of months.

[Lewis] He urged the Palestinians not to get bogged down in issues such as the level of their representation at the talks. Israel had already halted the Madrid formula to allow participation by Palestinians from the diaspora. This government was no longer blind to seeing the other side's viewpoint.

His optimism was partially echoed by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Muhammad al-Madani. The cosponsors of the talks, the Americans and Russians, confirmed the positive approach of all the parties and were especially impressed by the way that the Israelis and Palestinians addressed each other during the two days.

[Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian] This effort to reach out to one another is precisely the kind of approach that leads to problem-solving and consensus-building, which is required to bridge the gaps and resolve difficulties.

[Lewis] Edward Djerejian also announced the agreed venues for each of the five working groups who will meet in February. [end recording]

[A related report by Pe'er Shaked and London correspondent Dalia Yardi on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 December adds: "Israel rejected the Palestinian demand to include members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and inhabitants of East Jerusalem in the steering committee of the multilateral talks.

["Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin categorically rejected the demand, saying: 'We are on the eve of attaining peace in the Middle East. We do not want to reopen the Madrid formula and go back to discussing procedure rather than content.'"

[The report goes on to say that agreement was reached on "Israel's participation in the working group on refugees and the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora and the participation of Palestinians from East Jerusalem in all the working groups. Israel also agreed to the participation of UN and EC representatives in the regional committees forum and in the arms control commission."]

Palestinian Affairs

Fayzal Al-Husayni Interviewed on Peace Process

NC0712131192 Beirut AL-SAWRAH in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 14

[Interview with Fayzal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee to the Palestinian negotiating team, by George Salibi in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Salibi] Fayzal al-Husayni is the architect of the concept of negotiations under the Bush administration. We are now awaiting a new U.S. Administration. How do the Palestinians view the peace process under the Clinton administration?

[Al-Husayni] We must first acknowledge that the U.S. Middle East policy is a state policy, not that of a new Administration. So we will not see a real change in U.S. policy under Clinton. The priorities might be different. The rhythm might be slow or quick, because every president has his own priorities and particular circumstances that bring him to power. Hence there are certain possibilities. Clinton's main interests will be local ones, because he won on an economic program. This requires us—the Palestinians inside the occupied territories—to deal with Clinton in a way that keeps our issue constantly hot and under discussion; we should not let it drop from among the top priorities to the lower ones. This depends on us.

We must also observe the situation carefully. Achieving an objective that compelled Clinton to adopt a specific economic program might be impossible. The tensions in the United States might not be conducive to radical

reform, as Clinton said, in which case Clinton will need achievements. The Middle East issue could be one of these achievements and he will try to achieve it so as not to appear weaker than Bush, not to fail economically and then politically. We must deal very seriously with domestic U.S. developments, fight our cause, and shoulder the responsibility of keeping our cause alive.

[Sabbe] Between the two Israeli administrations—if the expression is right—between the Likud and the Labor ... [changes thought] Under the Likud, there were negotiations known as a waste of time, at least on the Israeli side. With the Labor party's victory there was some sort of optimism that progress could be achieved. But the Arabs were shocked by the fall of the Bush administration. We have not observed any sign of progress from the Labor party. Is this linked with an Israeli expansionist plan?

[Al-Husayni] We must first say that Shamir was not a negotiator. He was a wrestler, a boxer, everything but a negotiator. Rabin is a difficult and complicated negotiator. What has happened since Rabin became prime minister? I disagree with those who say nothing has happened. With Rabin, the PLO role has become a practical and overt one and is always on the verge of becoming official. The Madrid conference conditions have started to be consolidated. We inside the occupied territories and from the diaspora are in the multilateral talks.

They raised the issue of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. We know that all the committees' chairmen are PNC members. The Madrid formula is being crumbled with regard to the form of dealing with the PLO and the language used to label the occupied territories Judaea and Samaria.

Rabin is saying he is not negotiating with the PLO now because this is a transitional phase. Then he is not negating the PLO role when he speaks about president 'Arafat and describes him as an obstacle to peace. Rabin then says that there are other opinions in the PLO. This is a softening-up process and I don't think it is only to prepare for breaking the taboo on talking with the PLO, but to break the taboo on talking with Yasir 'Arafat.

When the Israeli Parliament decides to abolish the anti-terrorism law banning meetings with the PLO, all this means something. So nobody could say that Rabin is a copy of Shamir. True, Rabin has ambitions on territory, the same as Shamir does, but Shamir's excuse was an artificial, fundamentalist, religious, and historic excuse that could not be got rid of. As for Rabin, his argument is over security, and the security argument is debatable. So the negotiating process with Rabin could go on. But for him to feel the seriousness of the Palestinian position, at the level of negotiations and administration, he must understand that unless he changes his negotiating approach, we will not change ours.

[Sabbe] As far as the multilateral is concerned, does the Palestinian delegation feel cool, wrecked by the persistent Israeli calls to halt the multilateral?

[Al-Husayni] There is no more Israeli persistence to halt the multilateral. They have taken a position according to which they say they are dealing preemptive strikes that do not affect the negotiations. So it is also our right to move and resist without disrupting the negotiations.

[Sabbe] What do you expect from tomorrow's (today's) meeting [of the combat states foreign ministers]?

[Al-Husayni] The seventh round [of bilateral peace talks] concluded on 19 November. We were surprised by the U.S. invitation for a new round to be held 17 days after the last round. These negotiations are serious, requiring preparations and studies to be made. I do not know the grounds that prompted some Arab states to swiftly agree to the proposed 7 December round. Do they have reasons to believe that a certain achievement or significant results could materialize during the eighth round? We, frankly, do not prefer successive rounds that do not give us enough time to prepare for the next one. Why can't it be held after Christmas? Why aren't we given enough time to prepare our documents, pave our contacts, and make our inter-Arab coordination in a convenient period? But to continue like this, accepting one round after the other—as a matter of routine or to discuss the results—is something I believe needs an explanation. We want to know from the Arab brothers the reasons that motivated them to accept so fast.

[Sabbe] Have you received a copy of Eagleburger's message and what is it about?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. It commends the Palestinian stand and promises to pressure the Israelis to be as serious as the Palestinians, which is a good thing.

[Sabbe] Did the message not mention specific pause?

[Al-Husayni] The message remains an official one not for publication. But it encourages the Palestinian party to present the results of its serious analyses to the Israeli side, having showed the Israeli plan [not further specified]. It also advises the Israelis to deal with us with the same seriousness. But are two weeks enough for the parties concerned to bring their negotiating documents? We would have preferred longer before taking the Americans what is your role? Will Washington remain a suitable venue for the negotiations or do you propose another capital? We do not want to feel we are going to the negotiations as a routine thing. We want to feel that we are going with a will to achieve.

[Sabbe] Isn't the purpose of Eagleburger's message reportedly to find some sort of commitment among the parties concerned with the bilateral talks to continue the peace process and reach the desired objectives?

[Al-Husayni] They are proposing this—the need to continue the negotiations. But we want to continue with a pace that is significant, not routine. We do not want

receive negotiations, just as we do not want President-elect Clinton to turn his back on the negotiations as long as they are routine.

[Dabbas] Do you adopt this stand as a message to President-elect Clinton?

[Al-Khayyari] Yes. We must send a message to President-elect Clinton. We are not talking about a negative message, but a positive approach. I believe we must coordinate our Arab stand to be up to the standard—if we are serious. We Palestinians are approaching an interim period in which authority will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians on the basis of Resolutions 242, including all occupied areas. There could be some military or security sites that will not be under our control as Palestinians, but at the same time negotiations will continue for a comprehensive and final solution.

Discusses Contacts With Clinton

NC0812153592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1856 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, 5 Dec (MENA)—Fayzal al-Khayyari, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, said that contacts with the new U.S. Administration of President-elect Bill Clinton will be made in the coming stage to learn its morals and policies on the peace process' future.

Al-Khayyari gave an exclusive interview to MENA in which he did not rule out the possibility that the Clinton administration may reconsider its decision on supporting a dialogue between Washington and the PLO, which was frozen by President George Bush's administration at the end of May 1990.

Al-Khayyari noted that the Palestinian negotiating team will not submit any new proposals or ideas during the eighth round of bilateral talks, which will open in Washington on Monday, after having rejected the Israeli draft plan for autonomy [al-hukm al- dhati]. Al-Khayyari added that the Israeli negotiating team either should advance a new draft plan or answer our draft plan on the interim period of Palestinian autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati], which must not conflict with the prospects of establishing the state of Palestine within the framework of a comprehensive and just solution. He added that the U.S. Administration is aware of this Palestinian position and actually has admitted that the ball now is in the Israeli court.

On the Israeli Knesset decision to lift the ban on dealings with the PLO, al-Khayyari said any judgment on this decision depends on the Israeli occupation's day-to-day attitude toward the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. He added that it is unreasonable for Israel to talk about lifting the ban on the PLO while at the same time it is killing Palestinian citizens every day with bullets.

On the outcome of the cordon sanitaire foreign ministers meeting in Beirut and the agreement to take part in the eighth round of the talks despite the Palestinians' call not to attend them, al-Khayyari said that the decision on participation will be conveyed today to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

On the possible Palestinian participation in any future round of talks if one is proposed before the end of President Bush's term, al-Khayyari stated that such a decision would not be automatic. He added: We would deduct our position in light of an accurate and practical assessment of the results and would not be open-ended in fruitless negotiations.

Interviewed on Expectations

JN0512190192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Interview with Fayzal al-Khayyari, head of the Palestinian Advisory Committee, by correspondent Salem 'Ali Dkhayl upon arriving in Amman on 5 December from the Beirut meeting of the Arab parties participating in the peace talks—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Khayyari] The meeting was necessary. We hoped that this meeting would be held earlier. We wished the meeting was held *immediately* after the seventh round to present at the proper time our assessment of the seventh round and what might happen in the eighth round.

[Dkhayl] There was some hesitation about participating on the part of the Palestinians. What are the motives or reasons that made you decide to participate in this round? Are there good reasons, from the Palestinian standpoint?

[Al-Khayyari] The decision has been made. In light of this decision, the Palestinian leadership will discuss the course with which it will deal with this eighth round.

[Dkhayl] What do you expect from the eighth round?

[Al-Khayyari] We hope that in the eighth round, the Israelis will come with answers to the Palestinian proposals made at the seventh round. In that round, we discussed the Israeli plan and we proved to them that it was impractical and demand the need for a new plan by them. If the Israelis present a new plan, or at least discuss our plan, then this may be fruitful. However, so far we have no information that they will do so.

'Arafat Receives 'Important Message' from Russia

LD0612183792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received his excellency the ambassador of Russia to Tunisia. The Russian ambassador handed Brother Abu-'Ammar an important message

from the Russian leadership in connection with the developments of the peace process. Russia is one of the two cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference.

EEC Grants $6.5 Million to Palestinian Hospitals

TA0412152392 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—AL-FAJR has learned from EEC sources that the Community has allocated five million European Currency Units—$6.5 million—as outlays for running Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Those sources said that effective 1 January 1993, the EEC will exempt Palestinian agricultural products exported to the Community's 12 member states from the duties imposed by those states on agricultural products imported by them.

Radio Commentary Views U.S. Plans on Somalia

JN0412202992 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Political commentary by the general supervisor of al-Quds Radio]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Palestine—for the sake of accuracy—a negligible part of Palestine is being auctioned off in Washington. Its people have either been displaced or killed. With respect to southern Lebanon, it is shelled with a U.S.-made Zionist artillery shell almost every four minutes—a shell that causes destruction and death. As for Iraq, it is divided into temporary protectorates meant to become permanent. Iraq is designed to be torn into fragments, shreds, and pieces. As regards Somalia, it is being plagued by famine and several tribal militias, since the tribes there have become militias. Militia rule reins supreme there. Death is grinding and killing 1 million Muslim Arab children in Somalia, a country on the Horn of Africa, which controls the Red Sea, which we once hoped would become a purely Arab sea. As regards Jordan, it has reached an agenda agreement with the Jewish negotiating team, even though it is a partner to the Palestinian team, which was incorporated into the Jordanian delegation in a single track that shows independent action when necessary.

Regarding Egypt, it has become the scene of bloody sectarian strife, which cannot be denied any longer, since blood has been smeared all over the Egyptian picture after Egypt chose to abandon or was forced to abandon the authentic bloody battlefield. As regards the Jamahiriyah, it has been besieged since April. The sanctions imposed on it have been renewed, and they are expected to be renewed for the third time. As for the Arab nation, it has forgotten that the Jamahiriyah is still under siege because of a roving charge that is being used by the United States against whomever it wants to neutralize. Algeria, with its revolutionary legacy, the 1 million martyrs it offered, the billions [currency unspecified] it wasted, and the infighting between the old guard and the new leaders and those in between, which has almost chosen to abandon the nation's battle or has been forced to do so, has now been neutralized. [passage omitted]

Is it not true that the silence engulfing our Arab homeland is suspicious and dubious, given the current state of affairs, which we have noted? Consequently, is it not true that the beneficiaries of the current state of affairs, or those who deem themselves beneficiaries from among our leaders would be eventually victimized, just like others? I acknowledge that the answer might be as general as the question.

Let us conclude our commentary, using concrete terms and physical evidence. For some time, the United States, through its international spokesman, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, has been promoting a military campaign involving the deployment of 30,000 fully-equipped soldiers and officers in Arab Somalia. The cover being used is to ensure the distribution of food and relief aid there, because warring tribal factions are seizing and confiscating everything. The real objective of this move, which was announced first as a test balloon, then talked about indirectly and later denied as a way of confirmation, is to form a Somali government under the protection of and in the presence of U.S. troops, which will be catered to by Arab funds.

The end result, ladies and gentlemen, is that the United States, which has almost tightened its grip over Arab oil, seeks to control the lifeline ensuring its free flow. That is why it wants to tighten its grip over the Red Sea through a presence, for the first time in history, with these large numbers of troops and equipment. The U.S. force meant to be deployed in Somalia totals 30,000 officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. The cover being used is humanitarian. However, it is the Arabs who will finance this operation. Worse still, the person promoting the idea is the UN secretary general, who is also an Arab. [passage omitted]

DFLP Leaders Call for Meeting With Hawatmah

JN0712183292 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The secretary and members of the Syria secretariat of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have sent a message to Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the brother chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and the brother members of the PLO Executive Committee. The message reads:

To Brother President Yasir 'Arafat, may God protect him, president of the state of Palestine; His Imminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker; dear brother members of the PLO Executive Committee; brother and comrade secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance factions:

Sincere greetings. At dawn on Thursday, 3 December, a number of armed groups affiliated with Nayif Hawatimah, who has defected from our Democratic Front, moved under the cover of darkness to storm the central office of the DFLP in the al-Yarmuk Camp in Damascus. They continue to occupy it at this moment.

We, the leadership, cadres, and struggiers of the DFLP in Syria, appeal to you to assume your national responsibility and to put an end to this insane behavior, which contravenes the Palestinian people's traditions and ethics and inflicts the heaviest damage on our national march, especially in the current difficult stage being experienced by our people's cause. We realize that militant factions and parties that represent the masses are not built within the walls of offices, but by performing militant tasks amid the masses of our people. This prompts us not to respond to this insane behavior. This is because, as Palestinian citizens, we bear our national duty and fully realize what Hawatimah's options are in this regard.

Most resolutely and determinedly, we challenge Hawatimah to publicize the names of any struggiers from our front or any of its mass and democratic organizations in Syria who have declared affiliation with his gang—as he alleges in his statements, memorandum, and media. We urge the secretaries general of the resistance factions based in Damascus to call for an expanded meeting to be attended by the DFLP leadership in Damascus and representatives of the Hawatimah gang to reveal the facts before everyone. If Hawatimah has any of the front's struggiers who have declared affiliation with his gang, let him attend such a meeting personally and in front of all others.

The message was signed by 15 leading DFLP members and hundreds of the front's members in Syria.

PFLP Statement on 'Misunderstanding' in Rafah

JN0712194192 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In a statement issued in the occupied state of Palestine yesterday, the Fatah Movement and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] declared: We are brothers and comrades along the same path. We carry the PLO banner, united with blood, gunpowder, and steadfastness. We will allow nobody to harm our national unity.

The statement says: Our national unity is not merely a slogan to be raised, but the main criterion of all our policies. Our call for national unity stems from the seriousness of the current stage experienced by our dear homeland and the need to stand resolutely and firmly against both old and new colonialist slogans.

The statement asks all factions and forces of the Palestinian people to turn the slogan of national unity into action and practice on all levels, and that all marginal differences be tackled with open-mindedness and awareness. The statement adds that what has happened between brothers from Fatah and comrades from the PFLP in Rafah is only a minor misunderstanding. We bluntly declare to whoever attempts to fish in troubled waters that we are brothers and comrades proceeding along the same path. We are carrying the PLO banner, united with blood, gunpowder, and steadfastness. Our sweeping victory in the Bi'r Zayt University elections has been a major example of national unity in its true sense in both word and deed. Our unity will remain the solid rock on which attempts to sow discord and distrust will founder.

Brothers and comrades, you are urged to display further cohesion and unity, especially since we are approaching the sixth anniversary of the ever-blazing blessed intifadah. Let all dirty tongues that attempt to harm the unity and cohesion of revolutionaries be silenced.

United National Leadership Issues Call No. 90

LD0512203992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Brothers, the Intifadah United National Leadership [UNL] has issued its Call No. 90, the call of the self-regenerating Intifadah. Following is the text of the Call:

[Passage omitted] Here we have the enemy's prime minister, who at the beginning of the Intifadah wagered that it would be wiped out within a few days, admitting at last before the [Israeli] Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that the Intifadah had not died and that it changes form from time to time. This has also been admitted and reaffirmed by the former deputy head of the Zionist intelligence service. [passage omitted]

Our struggling masses, the forces of tyranny and aggression, have tried and are still trying in this region and the world—under the leadership of the United States—to utilize all their energies to humiliate our people and prevent them from achieving their national goals, including their right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state, and the right of return for refugees. By that, the United States is trying to benefit from the superiority of its war machine and its economic influence in order to achieve its goals at the international level.

Through its obvious bias towards Israel, the United States is still attempting to end the Arab-Israeli conflict in such a way that secures for Israel all the goals it aspires toward. Our heroic people have been continuing their Intifadah for five years. It has been more than a year since the start of the unequal talks; they will not lose the compass and will continue hoisting the flags of continuous struggle until their national legitimate rights of freedom and independence are achieved. They will continue to confront all conspiracies that aim to infringe upon these rights, despite the differences in their names and origins. Our people will remain committed to the

struggle for a just peace that guarantees for our people the right of return, of self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. They have firm faith in the capability of the justice- and peace-loving peoples of the world to impose their will and restrain the forces of backwardness and aggression.

Our struggling masses, in the name of the courageous masses of the Intifadah, the UNL calls on the international community to urgently take tangible, practical steps to guarantee the implementation of the 4th Geneva Convention and to guarantee protection for our defenseless people under the occupation. The credibility of international organizations, at the top of which is the United Nations, is represented by their capability to achieve this just and legitimate request for our struggling people in the face of flagrant violations that the occupation forces are exercising against our strong people at different levels of economic, humanitarian, and daily life.

It is also the responsibility of the signatory countries to the Geneva Conventions to work seriously towards securing the implementation of those conventions, particularly since the United Nations celebrated an international solidarity day with the Palestinian people a few days ago.

The UNL praises the courageous statements of French President Francois Mitterand on the role of the PLO as a principal player in the peace process, which emphasizes the PLO's true role in imposing peace in the Middle East.

The UNL calls on European countries to make their role in this process more effective by launching immediate and direct dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people wherever they may be found. [passage omitted]

Accordingly, and in light of the aforementioned, the UNL calls on all international organizations to set up a fact-finding commission to investigate the crimes of the Israeli death squads.

Masses of our heroic people, the UNL—while preparing with you to enter the sixth year of the valiant Intifadah—would like to stress the following: [passage omitted]

On the occasion of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting, the UNL calls on Arab and Islamic countries to leave their differences behind and rise to the demands of the responsibility to confront the schemes and dangers threatening the Arab and Islamic nations. It also calls for the lifting of the economic boycott imposed on the people of the Intifadah and its legitimate leadership, the PLO, so that our people's perseverance can be sustained and the blessed Intifadah can be upheld.

The UNL extends its salutations of struggle to the Iraqi people on their steadfast stand against the plots and the continuing siege of economic starvation that is imposed on them. It calls on the Arab and Islamic nations to lift the injustice and wrongs committed against the heroic Iraqi people.

The UNL salutes the strugglers of the National Lebanese Movement and the Palestine revolution in Southern Lebanon and its steadfast stand in the face of the oppression of the Zionist enemy and his arrogance.

The UNL calls on the masses of our people to carry out the following struggle activities:

1. To organize mass visits to the relatives of the martyrs, the detainees, and the wounded during the first half of December and also to visit the graves of the martyrs.

2. To consider the week from 3-10 December a week of wide mass wrath as a manifestation of our people's determination to continue the struggle on the occasion of the start of the 6th year of the valiant Intifadah.

3. To consider 9 December a day of an all-out strike on the occasion of the entry of the Intifadah of its 6th year.

4. To consider 11 December a day of distinguished functions on the occasion of the establishment anniversary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

5. To consider 22 December a day of an all-out strike in solidarity with the detainees of the Intifadah and all valiant detainees of our people.

6. To consider 24, 26, and 31 December days of [passage indistinct]

Brothers. You have listened to text of the Call No. 90, the Call of the renewing Intifadah, issued by the UNL of the Intifadah, coming to you from the Voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestine revolution.

Report on 'Secret' History of Hamas

JN0412061592 London AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Nov-6 Dec 92 pp 10, 17

[Report by Zaki Shihab, Khalid al-Hurub, and Fayal al-Ghalbal entitled "Hamas—the Secret Story"]

[Text] Has Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, become Iran's "armed wing" and the "door" through which the Iranian revolution seeks to enter the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian arena in general?

This is the big question currently being asked by many people in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and by those concerned with the Palestine question. This question is not, however, the only "charge" leveled against Hamas, but this Palestinian Islamic movement, which is active in the Palestinian territories, is facing another charge, namely, that it seeks to achieve a political objective that is unrealistic according to the Palestinian regional and international facts. This objective is "the liberation of entire Palestine," including Israel, the West Bank, and

the Gaza Strip. This unrealistic objective raises questions. Many sides consider it as merely a kind of onemanship for two reasons: The first reason is that all the Arab states and Palestinian parties which are directly concerned with the conflict with Israel, have relinquished this objective, and are negotiating to restore Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights in return for recognizing Israel's existence "within secure borders." The second reason is that Hamas, of course, does not possess the capabilities to achieve this objective. Moreover, Hamas cannot, actually and practically, have a direct influence on the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations, or prevent the reaching of an agreement to implement autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also cannot prevent the implementation of such an agreement in case it is reached.

Despite all this, Hamas has its importance and popular and political existence in the Palestinian arena, particularly in the occupied Arab territories. Strong light was shed on Hamas recently due to reports on the establishment of an "alliance" between it and the Iranian leadership in accordance with which Hamas has become under the "Iranian trusteeship." So, what is the truth?

The information "AL-WASAT" has obtained in this regard from well-informed Palestinian, Arab, and European sources, reveals that the "change" in relations between Hamas and the Iranian leadership took place in early October. At that time, a Hamas delegation, including its most prominent leaders from its Shura [Consultative] Council and Political Bureau led by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and Hamas Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah visited Iran. The delegation held talks with senior Iranian officials, particularly Iranian Revolution Leader 'Ali Khamenei'i and the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. During the visit, the two sides reached an agreement including the following basic issues:

1. It was agreed to reject and confront the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and to consider that Yitzhaq Rabin "has succeeded in deceiving the Palestinians and in making political, economic, and media gains" through his negotiations with them. It was also agreed to continue consultations and coordination between Tehran and Hamas on this subject and to reach an advanced stage of "cooperation and support."

2. The Iranian authorities will allow Hamas to carry out political and media activities in Tehran through an office there, and will assist Hamas in having a radio station, most probably to be set up somewhere in Lebanon.

3. At the request of the Iranian officials, a meeting was held in Tehran between the Hamas delegation and a delegation of the Lebanese fundamentalist Hizballah party which was then visiting the Iranian capital, headed by its Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah. At that meeting, attended by some Iranian officials, it was agreed that the two sides "cooperate" in the Lebanese arena, particularly in southern Lebanon, and that Hamas elements be hosted at Hizballah centers and bases in Lebanon. This will open the way for joint Hizballah-Hamas operations against the Israelis, to be launched from Lebanon.

4. Information indicates that the Iranians have promised Hamas huge financial assistance and to train its elements in camps in Iran and Lebanon. PLO sources said that the Iranians have promised to extend $30 million a year to Hamas, and to train 3,000 elements in Iran and Lebanon.

Israeli sources went even further than this. The weekly Israeli MONTNY [name as published] magazine said that Hamas and Iran concluded an agreement last October, according to which the Iranians will set up training camps for Hamas fighters in Iran and offices for the movement in "Beirut's Shiite areas." The agreement also says that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard will start training Hamas members in Hizballah camps in the Lebanese al-Biqa' valley. It also calls for setting up a radio and television station in Iran within the next few months through which Hamas will broadcast its programs to the occupied territories. Iran will also extend assistance to the tune of $30 million over the next two years.

Hamas sources as well as official Iranian sources denied this information to AL-WASAT. However, AL-WASAT can assert that Hamas will receive limited financial aid from Iran in the coming period. This aid will increase in accordance with Hamas' response to the Iranian demands. With regard to the training of Hamas members and the cooperation between this movement and Hizballah, this is correct and the coming days will show the extent of this cooperation.

The basic issue, however, remains that Hamas is an ambiguous and secret Islamic Palestinian movement which the people do not know much about. Hamas today is also the subject of big questions. This exclusive report gives an account of the story of Hamas, with its secrets, based on information obtained from sources inside the movement itself and from well-informed Palestinian, Arab, and European sources. The report also includes dialogues with prominent Hamas leaders and Palestinian figures who are interested in this issue. This report was conducted by Zaki Shihab with the participation of Khalid al-Hurub and Faysal al-Shubul.

The following is the story of Hamas:

At 1410 on 6 June 1989, Shaykh Ahmad Isma'il Hasan Yasin, a Gaza resident, collapsed in front of his executioners after he had seen the whip falling on the body of his son 'Abd-al-Hamid and after he had undergone all kinds of torture and terrorist methods for many consecutive days. This caused him to confess to his role in establishing the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, after denying what his comrades confessed with regard to his major role in the founding of this movement.

Israeli investigator Shawqi Amziy [name as published], who bore the number 54,962, was sitting in a nearby room when one of the executioners informed him that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin was ready to make a detailed confession. So, with a notebook and a pen, he went to Shaykh Yasin, and began to ask him one question after the other. This is what Shaykh Ahmad Yasin said in his confession:

"At the beginning of December 1987, I decided to found the Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip to operate against Israeli settlements, participate in public security disturbances, escalate the intifadah, and distribute leaflets. I met with the following persons for this purpose: Shaykh Saleh Shihadah, 40-years old from Bayt Hanun and works at the Islamic University; 'Issa al-Nashar, 35-years old from Rafah and works as an engineer; Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, 45-years old from Gaza and works as a physician; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, 40-years old from Khan Yunus and works as a physician; 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhan, 50-years old from al-Nusayrat refugee camp and works as a schoolmaster; and Muhammad Sham'ah, 50-years old, a school teacher at al-Shati' refugee camp.

"After these contacts, we agreed to establish Hamas, which is the acronym for Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. Each of these persons became in charge of his residential area and I became the general official in charge of Hamas in the Gaza Strip."

In his confession, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin added: "Our activities were to distribute Hamas leaflets, write slogans on walls, and violate public order. In December 1987, Hamas issued leaflets in which it specified dates for staging strikes, setting up barricades, carrying out activities against the Israeli Army and stone-throwing, and preventing workers from working in Israel. The leaflets were written at the house of Khalid al-Hindi, who gave them to Rawhi Mushtahi and others for printing at the Akram Shahit printing house. I used to meet with the area commanders monthly, either at my house or the house of 'Isa al-Nashshar, or Ghazi 'Abd-al-'Al. We used to speak about the situation in the Gaza Strip and about new plans for activities against the occupation forces."

In his confession, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin disclosed how a branch of the Hamas movement was established in the West Bank. He said: "In January 1988 a man named Jamil Hamami, who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, visited me at my house. I asked him why the West Bank was not participating in the intifadah. I agreed with him to set up a branch for Hamas in the West Bank, and that he would work for this objective with my help. Jamil accepted this, and then I used to send leaflets to him through Rawhi Mushtahi and Fayiz 'Abd-al-'Al. Jamil used to print huge quantities of leaflets and distribute them to Hamas members in the West Bank. He also used to carry the leaflets after photocopying them to 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah in Jordan. My contacts with the officials were conducted through messengers, and through Jamil Hamami and liaison points in the mosques. Whenever I had a shortage of money, I used to contact Jamil Hamami to inform Amman, or I would contact London through a Hamas member named Munir al-'Ashi who, in turn, contacted Jordan and informed them of our requests. I gave a secret number to each official so that no one would know the identity of the other if any of us was arrested."

Shaykh Ahmad Yasin disclosed to the Israeli interrogator the aspects of Hamas military and security activities. He said: "two months before the onset of the intifadah in 1987, I met with Shaykh Saleh Shihadah, with whom I became acquainted during my imprisonment in al-Majdal Prison, and before I was released in the exchange of prisoners in 1985.

"We discussed the situation and I agreed with him to establish the military and security apparatuses of the organization. On the military level, our objective was to fight the Israeli authorities and army. The security apparatus had the job of fighting lawbreakers in the Gaza Strip and those who violate the teachings of Islam, as well as dealing with drug traffickers, prostitutes, alcohol dealers, and collaborators with the Israeli authorities. Saleh Shihadah was the one who established Hamas' military wing, taking into consideration that I established the military apparatus, better known as 'the Palestinian Mujahidin' [al-mujahidin al-filastiniyin]. Acquiring weapons was one of its objectives."

Regarding the activity of Hamas' security apparatus and its foundation, Shaykh Yasin said: "The security apparatus has the name of 'majd,' and attribution of 'the call and jihad group.' One of its most important tasks is to collect information about 'people who violated the teachings of Islam, dealt with drugs, sold or drank alcohol, or collaborated with the Israeli authorities.'" Shaykh Yasin added that he had agreed with Yahya Sinwar, who was a student at the Islamic University, and Khalid al-Hindi, to establish the security apparatus, and that he had instructed them that Yahya Sinwar be the official in charge of the southern part of the Strip, and Khalid al-Hindi be the official in charge of the city of Gaza and the northern part of the Strip. He said that the apparatus began to collect information "and I told Sinwar: Kill anyone who admits that he collaborates with the Israeli authorities."

Concerning Hamas' financial resources, in his confession, Shaykh Yasin said: "Funds used to arrive from Amman directly. I received 100,000 dinars until August 1988. Ghazi Bsayso and Saleh Hirzallah, who are money exchangers, brought these funds to me. Saleh Hamami also brought me some money. I received a total of half a million dollars, and I gave them to Musa Abu-Hunaya, official in charge of the organization's fund."

In a statement to AL-WASAT, Lawyer Nazim 'Uwaydah said that he defended Shaykh Yasin for several years, and that he was his "window on the world." 'Uwaydah

clarified: "Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's confessions took place under difficult circumstances, whose details I do not want to get into. When Shaykh Yasin was arrested, his son 'Abd-al-Hamid was also arrested with him. Despite his serious health condition, taking into consideration that he was completely paralyzed, he found himself facing two options: Either to be patient and stand fast, or to confess. When he saw his son tortured before his eyes for several days, he collapsed psychologically. In addition to this, the confessions of others about his activity had put him in a difficult position."

A Palestinian lawyer who followed the trial of some Hamas members told AL-WASAT that in their confessions, Rawhi Mushtaha and the committee affiliated with him said that they were in contact with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. He said that the bill of indictment against Shaykh Yasin included four murder charges, and that the major charge against him was that he issued a legal verdict to kill agents and occupation troops.

An Israeli court sentenced Shaykh Yasin to life in prison. He is now serving his term in Kefar Yona Prison, about 40 km from Haifa, where he is being held in a wing called the "wing of leaders." Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Israeli peace advocate Abie Nathan were detained in the same wing. Attorney 'Awidah says that Yasin requires urgent treatment, and that he cannot move his neck or even swat a fly away from his face. He cannot even go to the toilet on his own.

In fact, according to internal documents of the movement, the early ideas to set up a military Islamic movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip date back to 1983. That was when the Israeli occupation authorities apprehended Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the future spiritual leader of Hamas movement, on charges of stockpiling arms and forming "terrorist" groups with the aim of launching military operations against Israel. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison on these charges. However, he was released only two years later, in 1985, in an exchange of prisoners between the Israeli Army and Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in 1985 and 1986. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there was apparent participation by mosque-frequenting youths in overwhelming demonstrations following a series of attacks on al-Aqsa Mosque. New names appeared in the political arena, in the forefront of which were the Islamic Struggle Movement, Those Sustained on the Land of al-Isra' [Palestine—al-murabitun 'ala ard al-isra'], and the Islamic resistance Movement, which appeared prior to the intifadah.

During that period, Abu-'Umar, one of Hamas' most prominent politicians, says that an internal decision was made in the summer of 1985 providing for the activation of popular resistance against the Israeli occupation. Thus, Islamists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (along with their mainstream—the Muslim Brotherhood) gathered momentum, thus launching Hamas movement.

After the issuance of Hamas' first statement in the fall of 1987, the movement set up many organs, most prominent of which were the mobilization and organization organ; the security organ, which is in charge of safeguarding the movement's security and compiling information; the military office, which is in charge of executing the movement's military operations; the events office, which is in charge of following up on the intifadah and contributing to its escalation; the political organ, which is charge of drawing up the movement's higher policy; the media organ; and the prisons organ, which was established after the increased number of detained members of the movement. It is in charge of organizing relations among detainees inside Israeli prisons.

In August 1988, the Hamas movement issued its charter, which spells out its basic principles as well as the nature of the ties it seeks to maintain with the PLO and Arab and Islamic states. The most important principles enshrined in this charter are the following:

—"Viewing Islam as a course of action and a guide for the movement."

—Demanding the restoration of "Palestine from the sea to the river," raising the idea that it is an "endowment belonging to all Muslims," "rejecting peaceful solutions in part and parcel," deeming "jihad the sole means of liberation," and viewing the Palestine question from "three angles; namely, the Palestinian angle, the Arab angle, and the Islamic angle."

—Establishing ties with Islamic movements on the basis of "fraternity" and ties with the PLO on the basis that it is "the next of kin for the movement, since it has fathers, brothers, and friends affiliated with it." (Nevertheless, the movement's charter condemned the PLO's secularism.) The charter said that Hamas will seek to establish ties with Arab and Islamic states on the basis of "joint efforts to liberate Palestine."

In a dialogue with AL-WASAT, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi (who is viewed by many as the actual leader of the Hamas movement in the absence of its founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin) revealed that "the meeting held at Yasin's house to declare the launching of Hamas took place on 9 December 1987, that the movement is an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood, that the first statement the movement released was issued on 14 December 1987, and that up to that date, there had been no such thing as a unified national leadership in the occupied territories."

Al-Rantisi added: "The charges leveled against him by the Israelis when they arrested him were for participating in the foundation of the Hamas movement and the issuance of the movement's statements." Regarding the leadership hierarchy guiding Hamas, he said: "During the first phase following the inception of Hamas, the movement established a 24-member shura [consultative] council. However, the number of council members decreased from time to time due to the arrest of many of the movement's leaders and members. Besides, the

Hamas movement has a seven-member leadership council. There are political, security, military, information, and other committees affiliated with this council."

Regarding the impact of arrests on the movement, al-Rantisi said: "The movement is a product of the Muslim Brotherhood. This means that it has a constant course drawn up by Hasan al-Banna. That is why Israelis were surprised, after each wave of arrests, by the emergence of a new group of leaders to issue statements and guide the movement's activities."

Regarding the movement's financing, al-Rantisi told AL-WASAT that Hamas receives financing from the world Islamic movement, but he insisted that Hamas does not receive any financial support from any particular government. Hamas receives donations from Islamic figures, Islamic aims, as well as many charitable organizations.

Leading figures in Hamas have told AL-WASAT that the movement's method of operation has undergone several changes because of arrests. Each regional leader has powers to form committees without the central leadership's knowledge of the identity of their members, so that if a central figure is arrested, his arrest would not affect the organization's activity.

A prominent Hamas leader told AL-WASAT that Hamas depends on shura, and that the main body of the movement's Shura Council is distributed inside and outside the Palestinian territories, and convenes few and far between to outline the major frameworks of the movement's policies, while what can be called the movement's political bureau is active outside the territories. Among the most prominent political figures who are active in this bureau are Abu-'Umar, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the movement's official spokesman; and Muhammad Nazzal, the movement's representative in Jordan. Also taking part in the movement's political activity are Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami, its representative in Tehran, and Muhammad Siyam, president of the Islamic University in Gaza, who was banished from it.

How strong and popular is Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people in general? Hamas officials deny a decline in the movement's popularity in the occupied territories. But Mansur al-Shawwa, a well-known Gazan figure and son of the late Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, told AL-WASAT that "the phenomenon of violence and the confrontations taking place, for which Hamas is responsible, in addition to harassing women in public places and the absence of a realistic political plan for Hamas, have all weakened Hamas."

In fact, the true weight of the Hamas movement at present differs according to two assessments: The PLO assessment which says that Hamas has about 15 to 20 percent of the Palestinian people's support; while Hamas itself raises this rate of support to 40 or 50 percent.

The measure of support for Hamas varies depending on successes or setbacks in the peace negotiations. At a time when the movement wishes to see that process fail and is actually working to make it fail to win popular support, Palestinian negotiators have frequently used the card of the threat of fundamentalism in Palestine, which will reap the fruit of any failure in the settlement process.

Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah, official spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, told us that Hamas is a new name. Its first statement was issued on 14 December 1987. However, the movement is old in that it is an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood group which was established in Palestine in the beginning of 1948.

Speaking about the nature of the relationship linking his movement with the Muslim Brotherhood, Eng. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, said: "The charter of Hamas confirms that it is part of the Muslim Brotherhood, and most Hamas leaders belong to the Brotherhood. Many Palestinian youths have joined Hamas. Among the things that we have taken care of is that those youths should not necessarily be former members of the Muslim Brotherhood." Ghawshah admitted that Hamas coordinates with the Muslim Brotherhood in Arab and Islamic states, following a policy of noninterference in the affairs of other countries, whether they are Arab or non-Arab.

He added: "Our approach in this context can be said to be similar to the approach of the Algerian National Liberation Front in the days of the revolution, when concentration was on mobilizing all forces to support the Algerian struggle against French colonialism." Ghawshah differentiated between the activity of his movement and the activity of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. He said that before declaring the creation of Hamas, there were currents in the Muslim Brotherhood movement, the first calling for the existence of a "safe base or an Islamic state from where jihad would be launched." The second view, that of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, stressed the importance of "launching jihad from the occupied territories, even if the creation of the desired state with the qualifications we know is delayed." This is what happened.

As a matter of fact, we can say that Hamas, according to what Ghawshah told AL-WASAT, is "the outcome of a natural development of revolutionary ideas within the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which called for adopting armed jihad at early stages." Despite the fact that the Hamas movement's charter affirmed the strong relationship between the two movements, the reality of this relationship remains vague. Apparently, the degree of political flexibility which Hamas possesses goes far beyond the well-known traditional thinking of the Muslim Brotherhood. For, in political practice, Hamas has managed to find common ground with the forces that oppose the pro-settlement stream in the PLO, regardless of their orientations. Based on this common ground, there emerged several coordination and joint action committees among Islamists, leftists, and nationalists.

Also, on the level of states, Hamas has managed to maintain its presence in several Arab arenas.

The relationship between Hamas and the PLO has been characterized by constant tension and mutual misgivings. The PLO charges that the secret objectives of Hamas reflect its desire to offer itself as a substitute for the PLO. As for Hamas, it launched fierce media campaigns against the PLO because the PLO has not adopted an Islamic approach and because of the PLO's participation in the peace negotiations. This tension has manifested itself more than once, especially between Fatah, the PLO's main stream, and Hamas, and reached the degree of armed fighting and casualties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Answering a question on whether he believes that Hamas is at war with the PLO, al-Rantisi said: "For our part, no. But for the PLO, regrettably, the answer is yes." He noted that Hamas' statements described the PLO as the "brother, father, and son." He added: "We wish the PLO would remain strong for at least one reason, which is the existence of a force that fights occupation and eases Hamas' burden of confrontation."

Talking about the reasons that prevent Hamas from operating within the PLO's framework, he said: "The vessel which contains the good of this life and the hereafter is Islam, so why does the PLO not embrace Islam?"

'Imad al-'Alami, a Hamas leader who was deported from the occupied territories to Lebanon in July 1991 and who is currently Hamas' representative in Tehran, also spoke to AL-WASAT. He said: "Hamas is not a substitute for the PLO." He added: "The possibility of Hamas operating within the PLO depends on meeting the conditions set by Hamas. Despite the fact that the PLO leadership has rejected these conditions, Hamas still believes that the alternative is further dialogue to reach a common denominator leading to an agreement between Hamas and the PLO on a program of political jihad." On the conditions for membership in Hamas, al-'Alami said: "The most important thing is to work and be loyal to the Palestinian cause and the Islamic path."

People close to Hamas in Gaza said that the mosque is the central meeting place where members of the organization get to know each other. Regarding the relationship between Hamas and the PLO, Ibrahim Ghawshah said: "It is a long story. But I affirm that Hamas does not present itself as a substitute for the PLO. The movement considers the PLO a national canopy under whose shade all Palestinians can meet. The Hamas movement is ready to enter the PLO institutions, especially the Palestine National Council, but it set certain conditions in its famous memorandum presented two years ago, saying that we are ready to join PLO institutions either by conducting fair elections, in which the Palestinian people choose their representatives, or by giving Hamas 40-50 percent of the seats, which equals the degree of its representation on the streets of Palestine."

Ghawshah said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat offered him and the delegation which accompanied him to a meeting held in Khartoum on 10 September 1991, 17 seats on the Palestine National Council; that is, almost 4 percent of the 450-seat council.

A prominent Hamas figure pointed out to AL-WASAT that the movement "was careful to arrange for three meetings with Yasir 'Arafat and a PLO delegation to resolve their differences on 11 August 1990 in Yemen and in early November 1991 in Sudan, not to mention the dialogues held with Fatah, in its capacity as a PLO faction. Hamas submitted several proposals to resolve these disputes. However, these proposals always ran into the personal intransigence of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]." When confronted with the charge that his movement is accused of attempting to form a Palestinian framework meant to act as a substitute for the PLO through the proposal it submitted to Palestinian factions a few months ago—the framework named "The Higher Palestinian Coordination Committee"—the prominent Hamas figure retorted, saying: "This proposal was submitted at a late stage, after we failed to reach any agreement with the PLO, and also out of a desire on our part and the part of many other factions to agree on minimum guidelines for coordinating action to thwart the peaceful solution, of which we are not convinced."

Relations between 'Arafat and Hamas have exacerbated over the past few weeks, as the Palestinian president launched several campaigns against this movement, as has been obvious in several statements he made accusing it of subservience to Iran. These campaigns reached the extent of threatening Hamas with confronting its members with firearms if they continue to "fight" Fatah supporters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An attempt to arrange for a meeting between a Hamas delegation and 'Arafat in Khartoum this month failed due to the movement's insistence that the Palestinian president must "apologize" publicly and retract his threats before such a meeting can be held.

Which states and parties are supplying Hamas with funds and financial support?

Ghawshah refuses to talk in detail about the sources providing Hamas with funds. In reply to a question posed by AL-WASAT, Ghawshah said: "Hamas' funding is mostly popular. Hamas also receives financial support from the Muslim people. However, this financial support is less than the support received by the PLO."

Regarding just how true are the reports speaking of an investment activity conducted by the Hamas Movement in Sudan and some other states through individuals or firms, Ghawshah said: "We do not have any investments at present. However, our future ambition is to have establishments and investments that could yield benefits for our martyrs. As regards reports of investment activities in Sudan, they are blown out of proportion. As a matter of fact, Sudan has received many Palestinians. A

number of Islamists arrived in Sudan and founded establishments and launched trade projects there."

Ghawshah denied the existence of military bases for Hamas outside the occupied territories. Regarding Hamas' relationship with Iran, he said: "It started last year when I led a delegation from the movement to take part in a festival supporting the Palestinian cause."

Abu-'Umar said: "Hamas has made efforts at the popular level and is still depends on popular efforts to support and finance it; the movement also receives donations from various countries." He added: "One of the most important obstacles standing in the way of Hamas is the scarcity of financial resources."

Tawfiq Abu-Khusah, a leading Fatah activist in the Gaza Strip, does not recognize the role Hamas leaders claim to have played in helping spark the intifadah. Abu-Khusah told AL-WASAT that when the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] was formed—and he was one of its members—he contacted the leadership of the Islamic stream and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, asking him to join the UNLI. Abu-Khusah added: "I visited Shaykh Ahmad Yasin on 3 December 1987 at his house and talked to him about the issue." He said to me: "I cannot make a decision on this issue." Regarding the statement issued by Hamas on 14 December 1987, around seven days after the intifadah began, Abu Khusah said: "Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi's confessions to Israeli interrogators deny the creation of Hamas during that period, and the writings on the walls made no reference to Hamas, but the reference was to the Islamic stream. The first statement which Hamas claims to have issued on 17 December 1987 is absolutely untrue. The truth is that the first statement issued by Hamas was numbered 23 to be the same as the 23 statements issued by the UNLI." Abu-Khusah wondered why Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is given this great halo, despite the fact that there are many Palestinian strugglers who have served long terms in prisons and carried out heroic and much more complicated operations than those conducted by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Abu-Khusah added: "The monthly budget of Hamas movement in Gaza amounts to $500,000."

AL-WASAT asked Dr. al-Rantisi whether this figure is true, and he answered: "I wish it were true." Al-Rantisi said that what is said about facilities offered by the occupation authorities to Hamas, especially regarding the construction of mosques and other institutions belonging to the movement, is part of "attempts to besmirch Hamas' reputation, and that the Israeli enemy arrests many of Hamas' young people."

What is the truth behind Hamas' relations with Iran, Sudan, and other Arab and Islamic states? A Hamas leader told AL-WASAT: "There are bases and basic principles which Hamas takes into consideration with regard to its relations with regimes and governments. The most important of these basic principles is noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states. Based on this, Hamas has a political and media presence in Sudan, Iran, Jordan, Algeria, Syria, and other states. We have supporters in the Arab Maghrib states. Rumors about training camps in Sudan or elsewhere are baseless. In Jordan, we have a political presence embodied by our known representatives who operate openly. The arresting of some members by the Jordanian authorities took place because they had some weapons with them which were leftover from the Gulf war."

Ibrahim Ghawshah stressed to AL-WASAT that Hamas has "firm relations with the Islamic movements, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Egypt, and other Arab states, and with other Islamic movements in Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Pakistan, Iran, and several other Islamic states. In Jordan, the Islamic Movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, is considered the main supporter of Hamas in Palestine."

AL-WASAT held a dialogue with a prominent British expert in Palestinian affairs, Christin Hawas [name as published], who visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip several times over the past three years, and met with leaders from Hamas. Hawas said: "The most serious problem Hamas will encounter if it continues to reject the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is that it will lose its position on the political map in case a Palestinian-Israeli agreement is reached on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza." Regarding the rivalry between Hamas and the PLO, Hawas said: "The lack of a political program for Hamas, and the fact that the movement's statements and charter do not touch on details which concern Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza, is something which does not serve Hamas' policy in the long run." Hawas described Dr. al-Rantisi as the actual leader of Hamas, and that Shaykh Yasin has become a "symbol and spiritual leader."

Regarding the situation of Hamas in Gaza, the British expert said: "It is present mainly in the Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, al-Shati', and Rafah camps. Its popularity decreased following acts of violence in the strip. However, the presence of Hamas in Gaza City and its environs does not raise the concern of PLO supporters in general, and the Fatah leadership in particular."

Hawas said that his estimations indicate that "Hamas and the Islamic stream have the support of around 35 percent of the people in Gaza, while Fatah's popularity is around 50 percent and the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] has about 10 percent of the support." Hawas added that PLO supporters talk about "Israeli facilities for Hamas inside the territories, which I think is not true. But what attracted my attention is that obtaining a license to construct a mosque or building for Hamas is easier than obtaining a license to build a school or institution applied for by another Palestinian faction or group."

Hawas noted that "Hamas, as a Palestinian faction, is different from other factions with regard to the large number of professionals who belong to it, whether they

are doctors, engineers, etc." He added that Hamas receives funds from "Arab governments."

In an interview with AL-WASAT, Palestinian writer Munir Shafiq said: "Saying that Hamas poses a threat to the PLO is an exaggeration." Shafiq added: "The alternative which Hamas could propose to the current peace process is a long-term program." Regarding the true weight of Hamas, Shafiq said: "There is no precise measurement for the weight of each Palestinian faction as long as general elections are not held. But we can say that Hamas is popular and has influence. What distinguishes Hamas leaders from leaders of other factions is that most of them reside inside, rather than outside, the territories. Hamas leaders are also young."

The following conclusions can be drawn from this report, especially from the statements of leading figures in Hamas:

1. There is a new alliance, whose content is shrouded in utmost secrecy by Hamas officials, between this movement and the Iranian leadership, as well as between the movement and Hizballah.

2. One of the leaders of this movement admits that Hamas funding comes from the world Islamic movement, which means that Hamas is part of this movement.

3. Another leading official in the movement admits that there are close ties between Hamas and Islamic movements in several states. Specifically, he mentions Jordan (the Muslim Brotherhood), Algeria (meaning the Islamic Salvation Front), Sudan (the National Islamic Front led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi), Tunisia (the dissolved Renaissance Party led by Rachid Ghannouchi). These are all fundamentalist movements.

4. It is clear that Hamas considers itself the only major rival to the PLO leadership and seeks to practice this role, either publicly or in secret.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Ministers Arrive for Pre-Summit SAARC Meeting

BK0612132592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering has arrived in Dhaka this morning to attend the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] Council of Ministers meeting. The two-day meeting will begin on 10 December and will finalize the document for the Seventh SAARC Summit beginning in Dhaka on 12 December. The Bhutanese foreign minister was received by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman at Zia International Airport. Talking to newsmen, Dr. Dawa Tsering expressed confidence that the Seventh SAARC Summit will be extremely successful under the new chairperson, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He lauded the poverty alleviation plan of Begum Zia and said that the plan will be helpful in eradicating poverty in the region. Mr. Tsering expressed the hope that the summit will make a number of important decisions to boost cooperation among the SAARC member countries.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan and Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit arrived in the capital this morning to attend the SAARC foreign secretary-level meeting. The three-day meeting of the Standing Committee of SAARC foreign secretaries is beginning tomorrow. The meeting will review the report of the Program Committee currently in session in Dhaka. The Program Committee will prepare the summit agenda. The committee is comprised of directors general of the Foreign Offices of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

SAARC Secretary Meets Zia, Praises Preparations

BK0712141992 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Ibrahim Zaki, secretary general of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. During the meeting, Begum Zia stressed the need for eradicating poverty from SAARC member countries. She identified poverty as the common cause of concern for the regional countries. The SAARC secretary general praised the preparations for the seventh SAARC summit and the summit agenda.

The three-day meeting of the SAARC Standing Committee began in Dhaka today. The meeting will approve the regional programs formulated by the Programming Committee of foreign secretaries yesterday. The Standing Committee will also formulate the documents of the summit. [Words indistinct] documents will be finalized by the foreign ministers at a two-day meeting beginning 10 December. As already reported, the SAARC Summit will begin on 12 December.

Algeria

Government To Join Humanitarian Aid for Somalia

LD0712233292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Algeria is willing to contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 794, which stipulates delivering humanitarian aid to Somalia. This comes in a statement issued today by our Algerian Foreign Ministry, the text of which said that Algeria has been asked to participate in the humanitarian operation for the Somalis, in accordance with Resolution 794, and that it is willing to respond positively to the request. For this purpose, the statement said, Algeria has begun talks with the United Nations and the parties concerned to determine the form of participation and to lay down procedures relating to it.

The issue here is one of a firm stance by Algeria, which is constantly ready to make an extra contribution to alleviating the suffering of civilians in a Muslim Afro-Arab country, which is a victim of a civil war that threatens the very existence of the Somali people.

The Foreign Ministry statement added that Algeria believes that such an operation comes within the framework of principles which continuously guide its foreign policy, in order to express its active solidarity with peoples going through ordeals and its commitment which conforms to the defense of human principles as they are internationally recognized.

The Foreign Ministry statement said: While Algeria reiterates support for UN humanitarian action in Somalia, it expresses hope that the Somali people will manage to bring an end to the conflict that is tearing them apart and to find a political solution compatible with their own aspirations.

In conclusion, the statement said that Algeria hopes that the international community will live up to its responsibility regarding other tragic situations.

Foreign Minister Assails Iranian 'Interventions'

LD0712222892 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 1830 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by Servarke Gani in Paris on 7 December]

[Text] Algeria: Our guest this evening is Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, who is in Paris. Servarke Gani met him and asked him first about relations between Algeria and Iran. The question he put was: Was Algiers' decision to reduce its diplomatic representation the result of internal difficulties? The minister's answer:

[Begin recording] [Brahimi] That is not completely correct. To be very precise, we have decided to reduce our own representation in Iran and as a measure of reciprocity, we suggested that the Iranians do the same. Second, it is not correct to say that the Iranians have reduced the number of their statements. One can even say that the statements have reached a higher level because it is now the diplomats who indulge in making statements on the internal situation in Algeria.

We have, with a lot of patience and firmness, asked our Iranian friends to measure a little bit the consequences not only of their statements but also of their actions through their intervention, their embassies, and their contacts with some Algerians who create difficulties for their country. We have, if you like, failed in our firmness as our moves have evoked less and less response.

(?The future) depends on the Iranians. If they want to play the normal game of international relations, we will play that game but if they think they can be above or beyond international norms, this is unacceptable.

[Gani] Will you go so far as to sever diplomatic relations with Iran?

[Brahimi] I hope that they will not push us to go to that extent, but if necessary, yes, we will go as far as that.

[Gani] In what way do the Iranians intervene in Algeria or elsewhere in other countries? There are, anyhow, the comments of the Egyptian president.

[Brahimi] It is not only statements. I think that it is known, as I said you, there is first. I think that it is no secret for anybody, that they have trained nationals of other countries for subversion. They have done this training both in Iran and in other countries. We know their actions in Lebanon. The behavior of their embassies in some European countries is also no secret to anybody who wants to know what they are doing. The press, more or less everywhere, talks about the money that is spent very generously by Iran, but unfortunately not for construction but for creating problems.

[Gani] Have you got proof of these actions?

[Brahimi] Oh yes, yes, yes. I hope that we are a serious and responsible country, and we would not have acted if all we had were just tales. [end recording]

Paper Cited on Iranian 'Plot' for Destabilization

LD0812094592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Well-informed sources of the London-based weekly AL-WASAT have affirmed that the three international security services charged with combatting terrorism have succeeded in securing extremely important information about an Iranian plot to create anarchy in the Arab Maghreb countries in the coming months. The sources added that the Iranian plan provides for issuing instructions to the leaders of radical and extremist groups to carry out terrorist activities and to intensify

armed oppositions to topple the regimes in their countries and replace them with Islamic republics such as the Iranian Islamic Republic.

According to the London weekly, the plan was drawn up by the Iranian leadership and uses Sudan as its executive base. The Iranian plan also utilizes those returning from Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan and their experiences in street and urban fighting to strike at Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and other countries, and spread social violence by creating a daily cycle of suffering for the peoples of those countries.

The London weekly adds that, among other things, the Iranian plan aims to physically liquidate senior officials of those three countries' security forces by using a terrorist network that would move across borders using false passports, after having received training in camps located in Khartoum.

According to the weekly AL-WASAT Iran allocates millions of dollars for the creation of brigades akin to those of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Police Take Action Against FIS Members

LD0712232792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] It was learned today from the headquarters of the National Gendarmerie that on 5 December a mobile patrol killed one of the armed elements of the Islamic Salvation Front who are wanted by the security forces. The action took place between Khemis El-Khechna and the Eucalyptus.

In Setif National Gendarmerie forces conducted a search of a house in the outskirts of the town. They killed one person who was affiliated to the armed Islamic movement and arrested two others affiliated to the same group. [passage omitted]

In Annaba four members of one family, including two women, were arrested for possessing explosives and inflammatory pamphlets. The four persons admitted to the security services that they were intending to carry out acts of sabotage and destroy economic units in the area.

The police headquarters of Djelfa province yesterday referred four persons to the public prosecution, including two persons with direct links to terrorist activities which recently took place in Djelfa, according to the security and justice sources.

Bomb Defused in Setif Province

LD0312230392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the fight against terrorism and sabotage the security services in the town of Setif have managed to dispose of a home-made bomb. The bomb, which was left near a school, would have caused serious damages if it had gone off as Feysal Ghazouz reports from Setif:

[Ghazouz] The bomb, which was a home-made one, was left, before it was found by the members of security services this morning at 0715 on a window of Police Station Number 2, situated opposite Bouguessa primary school in Setif. [passage omitted]

The Security services of Setif Province have stated that the bomb would have gone off at 1000; a time that would have coincided with the pupils leaving the school. Thus, if the bomb had gone off at the said time it would have caused big loss of life given the fact that it contained 650 grammes of powerful explosives. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Amr Musa Discusses Country's Position on Somalia

JN0712165192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo by Jawad al-'Umari; Amman-date not given—recorded]

[Text] [al-'Umari] Your Excellency the Egyptian Foreign Minister: Egypt is preparing to send 750 soldiers to Somalia. How does Egypt view the Somali problem, especially since it has contributed to past attempts to achieve a national reconciliation among the disputing factions there?

[Musa] The situation in Somalia is tragic and serious from the human viewpoint. The growing number of people, who die of starvation; the failure to provide aid to the Somali people; and the ongoing clashes among the disputing Somali factions have all led to a terrible tragedy in this Arab and Muslim African country. Therefore, international legitimacy had to interfere. We have made many attempts, through the Arab League, the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations, to control the matter and persuade some of Somalia's leaders to stop this human bloodshed. We tried to advise them to hold a reconciliation conference among the different tribes and currents, but to no avail. However, some conferences were held, and some attended them but did not commit themselves to decisions. The current situation continues, after it has been announced that more than 250,000 Somalis died of starvation and that thousands of other Somalis die of starvation every week despite the existence of humanitarian aid in airports and ports, and that those who die of starvation in are only 1 or 2 km from the warehouses of food sent by different Arab, Islamic, and other states. This caused the crisis to reach its climax. Consequently, the Security Council adopted a resolution approximately a month ago to send a UN peacekeeping force to assist in providing humanitarian aid. We decided to participate

in it and send a force under the UN flag. These states were requested to do that. In fact, the small number of the UN forces were intercepted. When the crisis reached it climax, as I have said, and when the UN forces failed to rectify the situation or control the matters, the Security Council, in accordance with the UN secretary general's report containing all these tragedies and many options for them, met and all the African, Arab, Islamic, non-Islamic, and the big powers unanimously decided to apply Chapter 7 to the situation in Somalia.

Consequently, the UN forces, or the states which will contribute to these forces, can use force to provide aid to those who deserve it. A number of African, Islamic, and Arab states, including Egypt, will participate in these forces, because we, in fact, maintain a special, old, and stable relationship with Somalia, and we assist the Somali people. Therefore, we are contributing to the UN forces in accordance with the said resolution and the recent resolution. Our political activity, the fact that we have an embassy there, and our contacts with the Somali leaders have never stopped. Therefore, we will participate in attempts to restore the situation to normal, within the framework of international legitimacy and in light of the general approval by the different states.

[al-'Umari] The international operation has aroused fears in some states bordering this country. Is there anything calling for such fears?

[Musa] I cannot understand how there can be a fear of restoring the situation to its right course in Somalia. The fear should come from attempts to finish off Somalia and cause the death of millions as a result of starvation. The whole issue is aimed at providing humanitarian aid to those who need it. When this is achieved, the situation in Somalia will turn from a crisis into a problem. This is another issue. However, all efforts are directed, within the framework of the Security Council's resolutions, at creating a safe climate to send humanitarian aid to the Somali people. If some people believe that the current situation in Somalia is better, then that is their opinion but not ours.

[al-'Umari] Your Excellency the Foreign Minister, Bosnia-Herzegovina is another area of tension, toward which international efforts are directed to solve this problem. Yesterday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called for an Islamic summit. Is there any imminent Egyptian move regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Musa] What took place is mines' to talks between President Mubarak and President Ozal and the contacts which took place with King Fahd on this issue. There are fears about and interest in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There are fears that the aggression and the bad situation will reach a climax with the approach of winter for the Muslims and the Bosnian people in general. The issue is now before the Security Council, within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization's ministerial conference which took place in Jeddah last week. In fact, if the Security Council or the European states do not move to stop the Serbian aggression, the ethnic cleansing, expansion, attempts to expel the Bosnian people, and destruction of that country's independence and sovereignty, then there should be a decisive Islamic move. This is the basis of this idea, and the Security Council is expected to move according to that base.

'Amr Musa Denounces Attack on Indian Mosque

NC0812115092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denounced the attack on Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India as well as the clashes that followed the attack and caused many casualties.

Musa said he is confident that the Indian authorities will be able to contain the situation and end the violation of the mosque's sanctity. He called on all sides to refrain from attacks on places of worship. The foreign minister praised the Indian Government for its decision to rebuild the mosque and punish those responsible for its destruction. The Indian Government's decision in this regard is proof of its commitment to religious freedom for all sects in India, Musa pointed out.

Israeli Minister Delivers Rabin Message to Mubarak

NC0712072992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2306 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur arrived in Cairo this evening leading a delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Agriculture Committee due to begin on Monday. The Egyptian side to the talks will be headed by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister.

Tsur said he is carrying a message for President Husni Mubarak from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He pointed out that the Israeli delegation's visit to Egypt comes when there is optimism about the future of Israeli-Arab relations. He voiced his hope of promoting cooperation between Egypt and Israel in various agricultural fields. He also said he hoped the new U.S. Administration led by President-elect Bill Clinton would continue to support the peace process in the Middle East. The Israeli delegation was received by Engineer Mustafa 'Awad, Agriculture Ministry under secretary and director of Dr. Wali's office, and Israeli Ambassador to Cairo David Sultan.

Agriculture Ministers Meet

NC0712113992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, today received Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. The

meeting was held within the context of the meetings of the Joint Agricultural Committee.

During the meeting Dr. Wali stressed the importance of developing agricultural and economic cooperation in the Middle East region within the framework of the peace process, particularly in the fields of desalination and the production of highly productive agricultural seeds.

The Israeli minister praised the Egyptian Government's efforts to support the peace process between Israel and the Arabs. He said peace is the Israeli Government's top priority and added that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is an example of a real desire to bring about coexistence between peoples, stressing the need to start preparing projects for economic cooperation in the Middle East to be implemented as soon as the peace negotiations are over.

U.S. State Department Official Arrives for Talks

NC0712190892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt that will last several days.

Cohen is due to hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on ways to promote bilateral Egyptian-U.S. relations.

ROK Envoy on Visit To Discuss Normalization

SK0812021792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Seoul's Korean Vice Foreign Minister No Chung-hui arrived in Egypt on Monday evening to discuss diplomatic normalization and sign economic cooperation pacts.

No is to stay until Thursday and meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Mohammed Musa to seek ways for early Seoul-Cairo diplomatic normalization and better economic cooperation.

He will sign agreements on avoidance of double taxation and cultural exchanges, replacing pacts signed by Consul-general to Egypt Pak Tong-sun and working-level officials.

No is also to meet with Finance Minister Mahmoud Ahmed al-Razaz and propose the conclusion of an investment guarantee pact.

South Korea opened a consulate-general in Cairo in 1962 but Egypt delayed opening a mission in Seoul until August last year because of its close relations with North Korea.

But the two countries are expected to establish full relations early next year. Bilateral trade totaled 207 million U.S. dollars last year with Seoul exporting 157 million dollars worth.

Sudan Seeking Mubarak-Al-Bashir Summit

NC0612131392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt has received a Sudanese request for an Egyptian-Sudanese summit in Cairo between President Hosni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the ruling military council in Sudan, to clear all suspicions between the two countries.

Sudanese sources in Cairo have said that Egypt promised to study the proposal and to implement it at the appropriate time. The sources noted that during his meeting with President Mubarak, Sudanese envoy 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid renewed his government's offer to allow an Egyptian security team to view the seven areas reported to be housing terrorist training camps for Egyptian extremists. The Sudanese envoy provided a full clarifications on the Egyptian queries on the scope of cooperation between Tehran and Khartoum, denying that this cooperation seeks to undermine Egypt's security.

The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo advised Khartoum to send a Sudanese official to Cairo to contain the acute crisis with Egypt and halt the escalating tension between the two countries.

'Amr Musa, Ethiopian Minister Discuss Ties

NC0612132292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Dori Mohammed, Ethiopian minister of planning and economic development, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Ethiopian minister said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and opening a new chapter in these relations covering political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.

He added that he and Musa also discussed preparations for the bilateral higher joint committee meeting, the date of which will be agreed during his contacts in Cairo.

He emphasized Ethiopia's support for the UN resolutions on sending troops to Somalia to restore security and stability there.

MENA Reports Albanian President's Visit

NC0812171092

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic on 3 December carries a number of reports on Albanian President Dr. Sali Berisha's arrival in Egypt and his initial meetings. At 1130 GMT, MENA reports that Berisha has arrived and was met at the airport by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

At 1200 GMT, MENA reports: "President Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with Albanian President Sali Berisha during a luncheon at the presidential palace this afternoon." The report adds: "Presidents Mubarak and Berisha had earlier held a 60-minute closed meeting during which they discussed recent developments in the international and Islamic arenas, particularly after Albania's acceptance as a member of the Islamic Conference Organization." The report adds that the two "also discussed the situation and ongoing fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Balkan situation."

At 1440 GMT, MENA reports Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's comments on the Mubarak-Berisha meeting, saying that "the talks ended this afternoon at the presidential palace." The report quotes Musa as saying: "The talks included a working lunch attended by members of the two delegations." The report continues: "Musa said the talks dealt with the situation in Yugoslavia and the Balkans in general, as well as in Kosovo Province, which is populated mainly by Albanians. He added that they also addressed bilateral relations. The foreign minister noted that the Albanian president will meet this evening with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, as well as with a number of ministers to discuss cooperation in a large number of fields, including industry, agriculture, and economic cooperation."

Democracy, Economic Reform Cited

AU0412173792 Tirana ATA in English 0936 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tirana, December 4 (ATA)—Following a visit to the ancient pyramids of Egypt and to the mosque and royal palace of Muhamed Ali Pasha, Albanian of origin, former king of Egypt, President Berisha and the delegation he heads got acquainted with the ancient culture of the Egyptian people, the traditional links of the culture of our two countries.

President Berisha met with the chairman of the Egyptian parliament, Futi Sorur [as received], whose forerunners have been Albanians. During the meeting they exchanged views regarding the ways to organize the parliament, its composition and functioning as the highest state power. They also exchanged views regarding the economic reform, processes to privatize various sectors of the economy and land in Albania.

Following this meeting, President Berisha and the delegation he heads met and held talks with the premier of Egypt, Mr. Sidqi. In this meeting, which was also attended by the ministers of the Egyptian state and renowned businessmen, President Berisha acquainted the Egyptian premier with the overthrow of communist regime in Albania. Albania, he said, lived through a long and gloomy night of a dictatorial system which left Albania in a very impoverished state. Democracy has been fully established in Albania now and the economic reform is being successfully realized, he said. The privatization of various sectors of the economy, of land, etc., are creating premises to introduce the foreign capital. To this end also serves the new legislation which is created and is facilitating the introduction of foreign investments and their protection.

Then, President Berisha dealt with the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina, a threat which, unless the international community devotes attention to, is likely to extend to Kosovo, Macedonia, and broader. He said that the Islamic conference held in Jeddah suggested correct ways to solve the conflict.

The Egyptian premier shared the same opinion with the presentation President Berisha made to the situation in the region and with the reforms which are very important for you in Albania, he said. Of importance is that they begin immediately and everything will be realized successfully.

Following the meeting, the Egyptian premier gave a dinner in honour of President Berisha and the delegation he heads.

Albanian President Ends Visit

NC0412111392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Albanian President Sali Berisha left Cairo for home today at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

U.S. Troop Dispatch Intended to 'Occupy' Somalia

NC0512200092 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 92 pp 1, 9

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Hasaya]

[Text] The United States has announced its intention to send 30,000 troops to occupy Somalia under the pretext of protecting relief supplies from attacks by armed groups.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. move follows coordination and contacts between the United States and the Israeli Government. The latter recently has strengthened its ties with Afewerki's government in Eritrea in a bid to boost its influence on the Red Sea's southern approach.

According to available information, Washington and Tel Aviv have agreed to share control of the Red Sea's southern entrance to thwart any opposition to their policies in the southern Arabian Peninsula or the Horn of Africa.

Sources say that European countries want to place any U.S. troops sent to the region under UN supervision and to revive the joint staff committee in which the five permanent UN Security Council members take part. But developments so far suggest that Washington does not intend to send its troops under UN supervision.

Paper Contrasts UN Action on Bosnia, Somalia

NC0712093692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the recent Islamic foreign ministers statement in Jeddah was strong and decisive, especially with the United Nations and the EC demonstrating reluctance to save the Muslims of Bosnia from Serbian butchers.

In a commentary today, the paper points out that the Security Council failed to adopt successful measures to stop this historic massacre of Bosnia's people and the United Nations appeared frightened of and submissive to the Serbs. If the United Nations used true force, the Serbs' activity would be curbed.

AL-AHRAM says the effect of the air and naval embargo, which came late, was limited. The Serbs used all their weapons, except aircraft, against the remaining Muslim cities in a bid to surround Sarajevo. The arms embargo has not harmed Serbia, because it produces weapons locally and already has weapons in stock.

The paper adds that the UN arms embargo actually harmed the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who depended on small shipments of foreign arms. This is a flagrant disavowal of the right to self-defense mentioned in the UN Charter; the international organization cannot send troops even to disengage the warring parties and ensure relief supplies as it wants to do hurriedly with Somalia. Doing this, the organization risks losing its credibility and becoming a tool for perpetuating historic conspiracies. [passage omitted]

Lifting Sanctions, Ending Iraqi 'Suffering' Urged

NC0712104592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Dec 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The Seriousness of Continuing Pressure"]

[Text] The UN Security Council resolution rejecting the lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 again raises the question of the relationship between Iraq's ruling regime in Iraq and the people. Signs, statistics, and eyewitnesses' reports all indicate that these people are living a tragedy. Children are deprived of food and medicines because of the sanctions and that is on top of the ordinary citizen's suffering because of these resolutions. This could have grave consequences for the entire Arab region, particularly with the build-up of major regional powers, especially the Iranian. So an effort must be made to solve this basic problem in the Iraqi equation—namely how to save the Iraqi people from destruction and annihilation.

Some people might believe that continuing the sanctions will make the people act to bring down their government and therefore resolve the existing conflict. But there is a probability that the Iraqi people will stick closer to their current government and consider it an issue of dignity and a rejection of outside pressures. So it is important to cancel these sanctions to enable the Iraqi people to have a better life that will facilitate the freedom to make the decision that will serve their interests. The Arab League must act to end the Iraqi people's suffering so that the strategic balance in the Gulf region can be restored.

Surur on Shari'ah, Extremists, Legislation

NC0712124592 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 1 Dec 92 pp 5, 6

[Interview with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, Muhammad al-Mukhtar, Mahmud Nafadi, and Basyuni al-Halawani; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] ['AQIDATI] [passage omitted] Is there a plan to apply the Islamic shari'ah to the different laws, or to canonize shari'ah?

[Surur] First, I would like to reiterate that there is a constitutional commitment not to pass any law that conflicts with shari'ah. Islamic shari'ah is the set of principles, rules, and codes established by the Koran and observed by the authenticated acts and statements of the Prophet. They are fixed, unalterable principles like justice, equality, consultation [shura], warding off harm, upholding rights, returning trusts, and so forth. The unalterability of these principles means genuineness rather than rigidity, since the texts of Islamic shari'ah come as a source of grace to the world. This grace and mercy can only come about when the application of these texts responds to people's needs, serves their interests, and solves their problems. If these needs and conditions change, it becomes inevitable to change the man-made texts. [passage omitted]

The texts which change in response to changes and developments in real life are those which organize the small details and the events which the Koran and the Prophet rulings did not tackle. Therefore, the subsidiary sources of legislation—consensus, analogy, and interests [as published]—were left unrestricted to allow for extrapolation and thus make room for changes in response to contemporary needs. [passage omitted]

Egyptian civil law derived most of its rules from shari'ah, thus combining the contemporary feature which responds to people's changing needs with the genuineness derived from shari'ah. [passage omitted]

['AQIDATI] There are two conflicting views on the application of Islamic shari'ah: One demands a stronger application and the other—representing the Copts—contends that its application might not suit them in certain cases. How can we reconcile the two views?

[Surur] Some of those who demand the application of shari'ah are preoccupied only with the Koran-stipulated punishment [hudud], although Islam came about to achieve justice and equality among the people, preserve their interests, raise them on Islam, faith and the values of truthfulness and goodness, and preserve their dignity.

Punishment was devised to protect these values. Punishment is inflicted in crimes which violate the rights of God and the rights of the society. Some of God's rights are purely His and others are for His subjects. Defending these rights can be done both by the Koran-stipulated and manmade punishments. The Egyptian Penal Code is a manmade punishment system aimed at preserving God's and man's rights. Hence, it is consistent with shari'ah. [passage omitted]

['AQIDATI] You said once that the security organs must act as the first defense line in the face of extremism and terrorism. The issue involves social, economic, political, educational, and media aspects. Do you think that we have done what we had to do?

[Sawt] [passage omitted] A terrorist is usually influenced by certain social or economic circumstances, and we have to face these circumstances. [passage omitted]

Every writer must explain the right concepts to the public, because it is the mass media, dialogue, and examination tools which can build an impregnable wall to prevent the infiltration of extremist thought. The security organs are merely the instruments for confrontation. However, they cannot uproot the problem. Security is the last defense line and should not be the first or only line. [passage omitted]

['AQIDATI] The dialogue between the government and the extremist groups is often a dialogue of the deaf; there are no points of agreement. The groups address the commoners in the streets, the establishment campaigns address limited categories, and the other experts are preoccupied with their own problems. What we need is a real dialogue and not just clichés. Are we mistaken?

[Sawt] No, you are right; we cannot talk about the cultural development of our youth when their minds and thoughts are being sabotaged. Extremist thought should not be countered solely by the People's Assembly's Religious Committee or the parties' religious committees, if any. They should be countered by the education, cultural, and youth committees and all the committees that have to do with human development, because extremism and its problems are related to human development. Each committee should direct the approach that suits it. We should not stop at the religious aspects; we should discuss with the youth their psychological, family, and economic problems in addition to the issues that concern the homeland and its affiliations. [passage omitted]

['AQIDATI] The Constitution states that we are a socialist, democratic republic. Local and international conditions have led to certain economic changes—the activation of market powers, the role of the public sector, and the cancellation of certain principles. With these changes, do you think that the Constitution is still compatible with the new socioeconomic reality?

[Sawt] The Constitution includes texts that are directly applicable and others that need legislation. The term "socialist system", for example, can only be applied through legislation which guides application. [passage omitted]

Thus, if the definition of the socialist system is left to legislation, then the legislation which adopts social justice—the basis of the socialist system—does not violate the Constitution. Therefore, the laws that work for liberating the Egyptian economy while preserving social justice do not violate the Constitution. Hence, the Constitution does not need amendment. [passage omitted]

Editorial on Objectives of New Religious Paper

NC0712114092 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Through Good Counsel"]

[Text] We begin in the name of God. We seek help from Him; we act on His guidance; and we gain optimism from His blessings. Through His omnipotence, we knock on the doors of the future with hope and optimism. And we begin with the best of all books: "They prayed: Our Lord. In Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we return in repentance. To Thee is our final goal." [Koranic verse]

When Samir Rajab, chairman of the board of directors and chief editor, proposed "'AQIDATI" as the first religious newspaper to be published by a national press corporation, colleagues welcomed the idea. Some of them, however, expressed reservations, arguing that the circumstances are not right because the danger of terrorism, by putting on a religious robe, is trying to harm the homeland, and because national unity, never questioned before, has now become in doubt.

But the answer was simple: This very argument is yet another reason prompting us to publish this newspaper. We are extending a hand to everyone in order to show the true essence of Islam, and to clear the ideas and practices of Muslims of any imposition introduced either by ignorance or bad intentions. Proceeding from the fact that the homeland provides an umbrella for all its citizens, we seek to protect national unity. We are trying to extend a bridge to the Muslims of the world—a bridge that transgresses political sensitivities and sectarian disputes; one founded on the fact that the Islamic nation is a unified group and must remain so. We worship one God, our message was brought by one messenger, and the Koran to which we travel and turn our hearts and minds is one. The Islamic nation faces the same destiny and the same danger—although things appears to be otherwise.

Our method to achieve all this is the method God Almighty ordered his messenger—may God's peace and prayers be upon him—to use when He said: Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious. [Koranic verses] We also will be guided by God's orders: Repel evil with what is better. [Koranic

verse] While we do this, we fear only God and no one else. May God make us good guides and rightly guided, and praise be to Him.

Libya

More on Al-Qadhdhafi Speech to Education Committee

LD0712225992 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Second part of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's address to the General People's Committee for Education, Youth, Scientific Research, and Vocational Training; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [words indistinct] I would like to say that the tasks of this committee are not the traditional ones only, just like any Ministry of Education in any place in the world. We are saying that the world cannot solve its problems, and is at a loss. This is a report [words indistinct] by an American committee in the United States. This committee was set up to examine the distressing state of education in America. The report is entitled: An endangered nation. This is to say that the American nation is endangered because of the deterioration of education in it. The report was given this title: An endangered nation. It is a report on the reform of education in the United States, which shows the deterioration [words indistinct] of education in America, by the concerned people who are worried about the deteriorated state of education in America and the spread of illiteracy. Therefore, they set up a committee to deal with this deteriorated situation so as to show the shortcomings of the situation in America and the solutions which the members of the committee propose. [passage omitted]

We now have Libyan competence. We must be self-confident, rely on ourselves, and do without foreigners who are robbing our money.

Thus, scientific research is linked to these academies. Our teachers at the nuclear institution or at the Pan-Arab Institution for Scientific Research are world experts, indeed. Their number is very big. No one has ever thought that a country with a small population like Libya, which has just begun its development, could have managed to acquire such a great number of experts. This is a great gain and great strides forward. These teachers, although they are working in the field of scientific research, can also play the role of consultant to any party with a project. Moreover, we should seek the help of (?those who are working) on the inner and outer and nuclear energies, as well as other research in teaching, because they are the best qualified science teachers. Therefore, if we have 1,000 Libyan experts, there should be no need to bring in foreign experts to carry out research. And that is why we have amalgamated scientific research with the teaching and training sectors. [passage omitted]

Because of the problems facing the teaching institutions, we are now considering their transformation. First, you should announce that those students who wish to continue their studies at Libyan teaching institutions should understand that they should be prepared to study in Sudan or Egypt on a full boarding basis, because they have the Nile over there, that is, plenty of water. And they should stay there. [Applause] This a stride toward unity; it was a problem before, but we have overcome it: The Arab homeland is for all Arabs.

No other foreign country can do such a thing. However, the Arab homeland used to be divided, and there used to be obstacles; we exerted our efforts over a period of 20 years until we eliminated these obstacles. We have today with Sudan what is known as the Agreement of the Four Freedoms, which are the right to residence, to free movement, to work, and to own property, that is, you can reside, own property, work, and move in and out of Sudan freely. And there are also 10 similar agreements with Egypt. [passage omitted]

Thus, we ought to get our benefit from the Arab homeland and reap the fruits of our bitter struggle for the sake of the Arab union; bombs fell upon us because of our belief in Arab unity and pan-Arabism. Furthermore, we have been blockaded and blockaded as a result of our commitment to the Arab unity and our demand for freedom and unity. Hence, we must now benefit from our great sacrifices and get paid for them, i.e. we ought to benefit from the Arab homeland and its resources and waters; we should not die of thirst while there is plenty of water next to us in the Arab homeland. We should prove to them that the Arab homeland is our homeland and its resources are also ours. [passage omitted]

The freedom of schooling must now see light and be implemented in the way we have always asserted. Every idea we have so far put forward, O brothers, will be part of history; the world will one day follow it.

It is not, therefore, a good idea to abandon it to the rest of the world, which will implement it. It will be too late by then to claim credit for it. The world will say no, had it been your idea, you would have implemented it before us. And even if we swear to them that they were our ideas they would reply, why didn't we implement them? No, they would assert, they are ours, because we implemented them. Go and swear to the West now that algebra was the brainchild of Jabir Bin Hiyyan or that maps were first introduced by al-Idrisi or that Abbas Bin Furnas was the first one to think of flying; you may swear to them with everything dear to you, but they would not believe. They would retort: how dare you claim that you were the forerunners who laid down the principle of flying? You would have been able to make planes yourselves had you indeed been the right inventors, would be their answer. [passage omitted]

Swearing to them that Shakespeare was indeed a person called al-Shaykh al-Zubayr would also be in vain. [sentence indistinct] Such a name does not exist at all in the

West; he was the only one called so. Usually names are common in European peoples' languages, and you can find them repeated thousands of times, but not al-Shaykh al-Zubayr. However, William, who is the son of the original Shakespeare, is quite common in other languages and originated in the German language. But you do not find the name of Shaykh al-Zubayr in any other European language at all; it is an exception. [passage indistinct]

Swearing to them that al-Shaykh Zubayr was an Arab is in vain. They have labeled me a zealot. In England, all British papers attacked when I said them that Shaykh al-Zubayr was an Arab, because it will be the end for them if you take Shakespeare away from them. Shakespeare is for them what the spine is for the human being. They know that their spine is an Arab. [passage omitted]

You must give people the freedom of choice. If someone wants to study at a public school, he is free to do so. However, if he chooses to study under a tree, let him do so. If he wants to study in his own house, let him do so. The financial burden of education and health is a very heavy one indeed; they are services without any return. Society cannot bear it forever. And therefore we must continuously reduce their burden, in order that education and health plans will not go wrong. If we were going to force the state to be in charge of health and education forever, this would mean that these two services, education and health, would no longer be free.

If we want education to continue, people to learn, and illiteracy to be eradicated, we must not let the state bear full responsibility for education. Freedom must be given for those who want to learn, even at their homes. We would have to provide books, curriculums, and teaching aids. There has to a method and so on. We would have to help until great breathing spaces are created; from the home to the wall, to the tree, to the workshop and to the fields. These are all education, in addition to the education provided by the state.

The same applies to health. If we force the state not to take responsibility for health, prevention, and treatment, it would mean that there would not be prevention and treatment and the health system would collapse, when the state would not want to bear responsibility for that. [passage omitted]

We will assert people's authority by training. We will provide training at the primary and secondary school level, and we will continue to train them on how to organize people's congresses at school and change them into jamahiriyahs. There will be selection. Even if they have to have a principle, from the practical point of view, students will sit at congresses and appoint a secretariat. The congress will select a people's committee—one for cleaning, another for that, another for security, another for implementation, and another for whatever. They will be trained. They will be under training. As for other schools and higher institutions, such as universities, higher institutions, and others, students will exercise people's authority indeed. You will be responsible for those in the locality. You will have to make sure that children are trained for people's authority at every educational institution in the locality. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Government Announces To Send Troops to Somalia

AB0712102992 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Mauritania will participate in the international force charged with ensuring security for distribution of food supplies and other items of humanitarian assistance to the Somali people. This decision was announced early this afternoon in a communique by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The decision, which takes into account the dramatic situation in which the brotherly people of Somalia are struggling and the unbearable insecurity conditions which make it impossible to distribute food supplies to civilians who are dying of hunger and disease, is an answer to the UN Security Council Resolution 194 of 3 December 1992, notably Paragraphs 10 and 11.

Morocco

Country To Participate in Somalia Relief Effort

LD0512143892 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpts] There is continued international interest in the situation in Somalia in the wake of the UN decision to send forces to supervise the distribution of humanitarian assistance. U.S. President George Bush announced officially yesterday in a live televised speech the start of Operation Restore Hope to Somalia. [passage omitted]

As an expression of their response and support for UN Resolution 794, many states have rushed to declare their participation in the operation. In addition to Morocco, Tunisia also expressed readiness to participate in the multinational force, as a token of its support for the efforts being exerted by the United Nations in serving mankind and peace. [passage omitted]

Mohamed Nacer Ben Jelloun Touimi, acting charge d'affaires in the Moroccan permanent mission to the United Nations, announced that Morocco followed with great interest the growing deterioration of the situation in this country which required an urgent and effective action in order to put an end to this tragedy. He also expressed the hope that the Security Council would act immediately to implement Resolution 794, and said that Morocco has decided to actually take part in this operation. [passage omitted]

Operation Questioned

LD0612223992 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] If the UN military intervention in Somalia has caused noticeable satisfaction in many circles, it has, by comparison, raised questions at more than one level. Why Somalia and not Bosnia-Herzegovina?

In other words, why has the UN Security Council still not approved a resolution stipulating a similar military intervention in Bosnia to halt the war of annihilation which the Serbs are continuing against the Muslims?

In his interpretation of this controversy, a U.S. military official considers military intervention in Somalia under U.S. leadership as merely an implementation of the requirements of the Security Council resolution. However, we cannot ignore the great influence which Washington exercises on the UN source of decision.

Anyway, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina today requires military intervention more than at any time in the past, especially since the Muslims' positions are falling one after the other into Serbian hands. [passage omitted]

Ministry Urges India To Take Measures on Ayodhya

LD0712210992 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1550 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Rabat, 7 Dec (MAP)—Today, Morocco strongly condemned the destruction of Ayodhya mosque in the Indian province of Uttar Pradesh yesterday at the hands of Hindu extremists.

In a reply to a question on the subject from MAP, a spokesman from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation stated that this incident was the source of deep indignation in Morocco.

He said: "While Morocco vehemently condemns this abominable act which hurts Islamic feelings, it hopes that the necessary measures will be taken to protect Islamic places of worship in India; and punish the culprits according to the seriousness of the incident."

Sudan

Somali Operation Prelude to U.S. Military Strike

FM0712094192 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, agencies—Official Sudanese sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that fury fear that the announced U.S. forces that will go to Somalia once the Security Council approves the move today or tomorrow are a prelude to a U.S. military strike against Sudanese Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir's regime.

The sources said that the United States and some neighboring Arab states have been annoyed by Sudan's successes in the Horn of Africa, especially Sudan's increasing influence in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the influence it has on the Kenyan opposition, which is expected to win the next elections.

They said that signs of the expected U.S. strike can be seen in the recently increasing talk of an Iranian forces presence in Sudan, which Khartoum has always denied. The same sources said that the new U.S. operation would consolidate Washington's influence in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea along the same lines applied in the Gulf war when the White House said at the time that the Desert Storm forces would withdraw at the end of that war, although the presence of these forces was later legitimized through treaties with the states of the region.

Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul expressed Tuesday his country's "astonishment" at UN Secretary General Butros-Ghali's proposal calling for the "dispatch of 40,000 troops to Somalia to secure distribution of humanitarian aid." Sahlul said in a statement to SUNA that "the number is incompatible with the size of that country or the declared objective." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Seeks Regional Help for Somalia

EA0512174092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] This morning, the foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Sahlul, met at his office the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum. During the meeting there was a discussion on the ways and means of promoting bilateral relations. Mr. Sahlul told the radio correspondent after the meeting that the discussions should be regarded as the beginning of a long-term dialogue. The discussion considered all the pending issues between the two countries and their settlement in a way that would promote their joint interests.

In response to a question on the recent U.S. initiative on sending American troops to Somalia with the agreement of the United Nations, the minister said: Our main concern in this matter is centered on the fact that the countries in the region ought to have a role in solving the Somali problems through political means.

The meeting was attended by Professor Abdallah Ahmad Abdallah, Sudan's ambassador to Washington.

Rebels, Government Agree on Relief Distribution

EA0612200692 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Nairobi, 6 Dec (SUNA)—An agreement has been reached under UN supervision between the Sudanese Government and the three factions of the outlaws' movement to guarantee the flow of relief supplies to the citizens affected by wars in the south. The agreement was

reached during intensive meetings held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi Friday [4 December] between a delegation of the Sudanese Government, headed by chairman of the Transitional National Assembly's (TNA) Peace Committee Ahmad el-Radi Jabir, and [the] Garang, Nasir, and Torit factions of the rebels' movement, whose side was was chaired by the deputy assistant UN secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

The agreement stipulates the use of the White Nile for the transportation of relief supplies from Kosti to Juba and from Malakal to Nasir, including the identification of drop-off points along the river from where relief will be transported to the needy areas. The agreement also includes the use of the railroad link from Muglad to Aweil and Wau as a corridor of tranquility for the transportation of relief supplies. It further provides for the use of the Lokichokio-Narus-Kapoeta-Torit-Lafon-Juba road; and subject to UN assessment of need, a branch from Kapoeta-Magos-Bumma-Pibor-Pochala. As for Yei, the agreement allows the area to be supplied from Juba. Air-dropping to Yei also is accepted.

The agreement states that Chukudum is to be supplied from Lokichokio via Kapoeta, and Bieros from Kitgum subject to UN assessment of need.

The current airlifts are to continue until the Nile corridor starts functioning, bringing food from within the Sudan, the agreement says.

There also is agreement that air access will be facilitated for revised assessments of the needy areas to be carried out under the aegis of the UN according to existing procedures.

It also is agreed to conduct reviews of the supply situation in Ayod, Mayuot, Old Fangak, Akom, Lafon, Mayen, Ahon, Kongor and Akot, and to increase the flow of food to Waat, Pochala, Pibor, and Bor.

Updated assessments and monitoring will be carried out whenever the need arises.

The Sudanese Government and the factions of the rebels' movement have expressed concern about the welfare of civilians in the displaced camps in southern Sudan, and have agreed on providing assistance to them.

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Condemns Destruction of Mosque

LD0812102192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement: Tunisia has been following with great concern the news of the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India. Tunisia condemns this act which is indicative of religious fanaticism, and regrets its violent and provocative nature. While welcoming the statement made by the president of India, who has quickly condemned the act, Tunisia urges India, the country of firmly-established traditions which denounces violence and is the land of compassion and respect for beliefs, to do its utmost to prevent the situation from becoming complicated, and to devise ways of effectively protecting the sanctity of places of worship and to provide all the means of security for them. Tunisia is hopeful that India will succeed in consecrating the right of the freedom of worship and maintaining peaceful coexistence among the various religions that exist there, which constitute a source of variety and wealth in that friendly country.

Ben Ali Stresses Good Ties With France at Rally

LD0812205192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpts] A grand political rally took place in the capital today in the presence of thousands of the Constitutional Democratic Rally's members and leadership. This grand rally was chaired by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, who gave the go-ahead for holding the Rally's second congress, due to take place in July 1993.

In an atmosphere of enthusiasm, the Democratic Constitutional Rally's ministers reiterated their commitment to continue their active contribution to consecrating the principles of the [1987 government] change.

Amid very warm applause President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made his way to the rostrum to make the following important speech:

[Begin Ben Ali recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and prayers upon the noblest of prophets.

Ministers, brothers and sisters.

It gives me great pleasure to meet you, cadres and militants of the Constitutional Democratic Rally who came here from all over the country, at this huge gathering. [passage omitted]

I reviewed the positive achievements of the last five years in my recent speech on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the change of 7 November. Furthermore, records which are available for anyone who wishes to consult them would not only reaffirm our positive assessment of our satisfactory achievements but would also deny all claims and allegations [applause] being propagated by a group of people who are opposed to Tunisia, and by those who have found refuge in and made friends with their country's enemies [applause and chants: "O Ben Ali, we will sacrifice ourselves for you"] who are upset by any achievements realized in Tunisia and every step made toward progress, development, and stability, and who would not hesitate to fabricate press campaigns

and hire a number of information organs through distribution and lies as well as use every means and opportunity to unjustly and unjustly distort their country's reputation [applause and chants].

However, I should like to seize this opportunity to reiterate that the presence of these foreign persons in France, the friendly country, would not harm our friendship with it at all, nor are there any differences or collusion between us and that friendly country. On the contrary we are satisfied with the level of our relations with France in accordance with our old bonds, our mutual respect, and our concern for our two countries' common interest as well as for the sake of progress, development, and stability in the Mediterranean. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bush Somalia Decision Aimed at Improving Image

JN0812105092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec 92 (INA)—President Bush is leaving out of political life with such actions that will add fresh crimes to the catalogue of the disgraceful atrocities of U.S. imperialism against other nations, AL-JUMHURIYAH writes in an editorial.

Bush is going out of his way to score more points in this unsavory domain, hoping to burnish an image that was tarnished by his aggression on Iraq. His obsession with power is such that, in the waning days of his presidency, he is acting like one who is living on borrowed time, the paper adds.

It notes Bush's fascination with deploying U.S. troops in Somalia. In a surprise move, AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on, President Bush's administration decided to intervene militarily in Somalia. The decision provides for terminating U.S. involvement in the Somalia operation one day before his presidency expires on 20 January 1993.

As his term in the White House draws to a close, the U.S. president decided to take the case of U.S. involvement in the Somalia operation directly to the American people, notes the paper, citing the fact that the Congress is on holiday.

It appears, in the little time left before he retires, President Bush's chances of scoring further points are slim indeed, AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes.

PKK Bars Turkish Journalists From Camp

TA0712193292 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] It has been announced that PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists, who are currently in the (Zali) camp in northern Iraq, will soon be resettled in one or two separate camps. PKK terrorists prevented Turkish reporters, who were invited to the region by the Iraqi Kurdish Front, from entering the camp. Our correspondents Metin Gokce and Sinan Sanmoglu sent the following report from the region:

[Begin recording] Turkish members of the media were first taken to the Khakurk region, which has been purged of terrorists. Here, the regional peshmerga commander briefed the reporters generally on the camps. Our request to tour the camps one by one was rejected on the grounds that it would be too time consuming.

On the second day, we set out for (Zali) camp under the strict protection of the peshmergas. The peshmerga controls on the road became more frequent as we approached the camp, which is near the Iranian border. We wondered, however, whether these controls were routine or a special show for the press. The access to the camp is difficult, and it is impossible to reach it by vehicle in snowy weather. We noticed warnings against mines along the road near the border region. After a six-hour journey, we started seeing at a distance plastic, where goods brought from Iran on mules are traded.

This region is 10 km from the (Zali) camp, where the separatist organization is now living. The 25 Turkish reporters, who were invited by the Kurdish Front, were forced to return when the PKK did not allow them access. A terrorist, who came from the camp and who claimed to be an official, said that the PKK does not want to speak to Turkish reporters. [passage omitted]

The (Zali) camp is near the Iranian border, in a region which appears to be conducive to all types of illegal activity. Furthermore, it is thought-provoking that the PKK, which derives its income from narcotics smuggling, was settled on the narcotics transit route.

Later, replying to reporters' questions in Salah-al-Din, Fu'ad Masum, prime minister of the self-proclaimed Kurdish Federated State, announced that the terrorists in (Zali) will soon be resettled in another one or two camps. Asked to comment on the PKK statements, Masum said that the losing side in a war would not openly declare that it had lost the war. Pointing out that these statements were made to raise morale, Masum noted: Two months ago, they controlled a large area along the Turkish border; now, they are living in a 4-km square area 200 km from the border. This is nothing to brag about.

Intelligence Trains Iranian Kurds in Sabotage

JN0812190892 (Clandestine) Radio Kurdistan in Arabic 1635 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] It has been confirmed by our sources that Iraqi military intelligence officials are training Iranian Kurdish refugees in the Khanaqin area in espionage, sabotage, and detonation of explosives and time bombs with the aim of spreading fear and confusion among the masses. The intelligence quarters are supplying these elements with fake identity cards belonging to the Kurdistan Front in order to facilitate their terrorist missions and enable them to pass through Kurdish checkpoints.

Rebel Radio Reports Meeting of Opposition Groups

NC0612101792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] A delegation representing the Committee for the Coordination of Joint National Action has met recently with a delegation representing the leadership of the Islamic trend of the Iraqi opposition forces, led by Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. In this meeting, the two sides stressed the unity of the Iraqi people and Iraq and called for continued efforts to expose the scandalous and repressive policies of the entrenched tyrant's regime and to depose that regime. The two sides issued a statement warning of the

current attempts to distract the Iraqi opposition from its immediate goal of ending the ordeal of our people, who live under Saddam's dictatorial regime. The two sides agreed to hold a meeting for national Islamic dialogue in Damascus on 17 December to emphasize the principles and unity of the Iraqi opposition movement.

In another development, SAIRI Chairman al-Hakim described the formation of a Presidential Body [al-hay'ah al-ri'asiyah] at the recent Iraqi opposition meeting in Salah al-Din as a move in favor of sectarianism and a possible step toward partition. Reiterating SAIRI's opposition to this move, al-Hakim said that he would have preferred a larger Presidential Body, adding that the Iraqi people should be represented in the Presidential Body in a manner that does not foment sectarianism.

Al-Hakim noted that two proposals were made in this respect. One was to form only the Executive Committee. The other was to form a Presidential Council [majlis ri'asi] of seven or nine people, so as not to give the entrenched regime the chance to exploit sectarianism.

In an interview with the French paper LE MONDE, al-Hakim said that the entrenched tyrant Saddam Hussayn is not in full control of the Iraqi Army, extolling the participation of Army personnel in the popular uprising. Al-Hakim said that there is wide unrest in Army ranks, noting that many officers have attempted to flee the country and that Saddam's regime has liquidated many Army personnel.

Al-Basrah Army Barracks Reportedly Attacked

NC0312211892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The heroic mujahidin of our rebellious Iraq in the past few days launched a large-scale attack on the tyrant regime's military barracks in the Qurnah 'Ali area of al-Basrah Governorate.

Our military sources reported that the clashes lasted several hours during the night and until the next morning and resulted in heavy losses among the ranks of the defeated regime's gangs. Our mujahidin fighters returned to base after capturing a quantity of viable enemy weapons.

Al-Basrah Ba'th Party Office Said Destroyed 30 Nov

NC0312073692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The eagles of the Islamic revolution have started to carry out qualitative operations against the tyrant's dens and his repressive officers to protect the sons of our people and ensure their freedoms. The heroic mujahidin of the Islamic revolution planted a timed explosive device with a six-ton detonation impact inside the Ba'th Party branch in al-Mashtah district in rebellious al-Basrah Governorate on 30 November 1992.

At exactly 1500 on the same day, the device exploded and the sound reverberated across the area. The explosion destroyed the den of evil. Following the explosion that deafened Saddam, the agent of arrogance, and his clique, the criminals closed their other repressive offices in al-Mashtah district. God Almighty's fear and terror gripped their hearts and some mercenaries removed their military insignias. God Almighty has derailed them through the people's protection of the false ranks and badges given them by the greatest agent.

More Reportage on Saddam River Project in South

Celebration Detailed

BR0712151092 Baghdad INA in English 1335 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 7, INA—Iraq today celebrated the completion and inauguration of the "Third River", a giant drainage and irrigational project that would contribute to developing millions of dunums of agricultural lands.

The 565 kilometre-long scheme, the Saddam River project named after President Saddam Hussayn is based on a canal between the capital Baghdad and the southern province of al-Basrah.

Official sources said about 6,000 engineers, technicians and workers representing various ministries and state and private companies had worked round the clock over 180 days, considered a record time in the three-stage project (northern, central and southern).

Works to implement the scheme started on 25th May last.

The sources added that 2,000 excavators, 200 shovels, 200 bulldozers, 1250 dumpers and hundreds of trucks, cranes, various machines were used in digging 76 million cubic metres and carrying out the project.

The concept of the project came to light in the early 1950s when various foreign companies had implemented parts of drainage for the project and gave up to complete the scheme because of the U.S. led aggression on Iraq.

Saddam River is described by Iraqi officials as the largest single irrigation project in the history of the land of Mesopotamia and the region as a whole.

Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud described the project as the biggest irrigation scheme in the region and the largest spillage in the world. The scheme collects excess irrigation water between the Euphrates and Tigris two rivers and leads it to the Gulf in the south of the country.

Work started on the first stage of the river in 1953 to stop irrigated land turning barren because salt was left on farmlands when standing water evaporated and the Euphrates was turning more saline.

flowing between the Euphrates and Tigris, the Third River drains their excess irrigation water as it washes away the salt in the soil, eventually turning the land fertile again.

The project also included putting up 54 bridges of various sizes for pedestrians, traffic and railways.

The depth (D) and width (W) of the river ranges from 8(D)-44(W) meters to 34(D)-382(W) meters. It links several spillages in the central and southern parts of the country.

A 350 meters-long drainage terminal under the Euphrates river with a capacity of 220 cu. meters a second and several siphons were set up as well as platforms and pools.

A communiqué project for combining desertification in the sedimentary plain territories established by the Euphrates and Tigris was also being implemented.

The scheme would help reform hundreds of km of territory in the region. Special trees would be planted to block sand dunes creeping towards agricultural territories and nearby towns.

Besides an integrated economy in al-Tweethah region some 40 K. south of Baghdad, elaborations in all ministries, establishments, departments, universities and schools were observed this morning Monday to explain the economic and social dimensions of the Iraqi creational project.

Prime Minister Sends Cable

BR0812173692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text" of cable from Mohammed Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, to Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: We made from water everything living. [Koranic verse]

Mujahid leader Saddam Hussayn, may God protect and safeguard him: As our people celebrate the completion of the Saddam river, it gives me pleasure and honor to congratulate your excellency and with you the best of health, and may God grant you success.

Our beloved leader: 7 December 1992—the date for the completion of this impressive structure, Saddam River—will be remembered as a splendid symbol in which we will take pride for all time. This edifice will be one of the gigantic, historic achievements that Iraqis will hand down to future generations.

Our God-supported leader: Very early on, the glorious 17-30 July Revolution—under your leadership—responded to the call of land and life to yield plentiful sons to the courageous children of Iraq and to realize a long-cherished dream. Your excellency's assertion that there is nothing impossible taps our people's sources of ingenuity, and inspires them to clear hurdles and race against time to attain all that is humanly possible.

I pray to God to bless whoever has lent a hand in building this impressive edifice.

Vicious imperialists and Zionists now know that the light of righteousness has reappeared over our dear homeland and that a sword has been unsheathed anew, heralding a new, pride-inspiring Arab dawn. They have unleashed their deep-seated malice and sought to conceal the light of righteousness, but have been thwarted by the Iraqi people, for whom nothing under the sun is impossible and who are inspired by a courageous leader whose history of governing will baptize the golden age.

May the criminal imperialists and Zionists, and their allies and lackeys, face disgrace until the day of judgment. God be praised for His generosity toward us and for this major feat.

In the days ahead, our great people, God willing, will witness pride, prosperity, and affluence under your astute leadership.

We promise that we will always stand ready to defend the homeland and the principles for which we stand. We promise that we will continue to look up to you as a symbol of pride, dignity, and honor, and as a clear thinker and resolute leader. After God, we will draw inspiration from your decisiveness and incorruptibly. Down the road of pride and strength, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to the service of our great people.

May you live long, sir. May you enjoy the peace and blessings of God.

[Signed] Mohammed Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister.

Papers Celebrate Project

BR0712151692 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 7, INA—Iraqi papers today were unanimous on paying tribute and highlighting the importance of Iraq's giant project "Saddam River" implemented by Iraqi sisters as a symbol of progress and civilization.

The Iraqi papers dedicated their pages and major articles and reports on talking about the significant impacts and the stages of implementing the project and the Iraqi industrial talents and experiences that were behind the project implementation.

The papers were also unanimous that accomplishing the Saddam River project would remain a landmark and a source of pride to Iraq across history.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said that President Saddam Hussyn's decision to start a national drive for carrying out the Third River would remain an evidence to the genuinity of the course for constructing Iraq and restoring its significant role in the region.

The paper added that Iraq and in the shade of the oppressive economic embargo moved with determination and solid will to implement the Third River in Iraq, through the enlightened minds and hands of its people after the enemies feverish attempts to kill and starve the Iraqi people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper stressed in its editorial that will of the Iraqi people has surmounted the calculations of time and capability by accomplishing the giant Saddam River project.

The paper added that the project would have future positive repercussions on Iraq's development despite the attempts of the American and Atlantic alliance to block out the significance of this project.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper said that accomplishing the project came as a devastating blow in the counter offensive launched by the Iraqi people against the vicious U.S.-led embargo.

It added that significance of this magnificent historical accomplishment lies with its being implemented in the shade of unjust embargo and the time of the difficult challenge and the conspiratorial action.

AL-'IRAQ newspaper said that accomplishing the Saddam River project would be the new title in the time of civilization construction and growth that would render the country of Mesopotamia further prosperity and progress.

It added that flow of Saddam River waters would boost the factors of strength and faith in a prosperous future for the Iraqis and would make the impossible disappear from the Iraqis books.

BABIL newspaper, in a major article said the Saddam River project would free Iraq from 80 million tonnes of salinity annually and the river would contribute to revive and reclaim some six million dunums, (one dunum equals 2500 sq. meters) of arable lands and also to the productivity of each dunum in addition to decreasing the high-levels of subterranean waters in the central and southern areas of Iraq.

Group Starts Work on 'Mother of Battles' River

JN0712203892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Addressing the engineers of the Military Industrialization Organization, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Proceed with the blessings of God; from Him we seek support, on Him we rely, and from Him we take what makes us and our people more determined, more giving, and more capable. Deem the impossible. God is great. God is great. Long live the mujahidin.

The statements were made in reaction to a cable sent to President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and the overall supervisor of the campaign to complete the Saddam River. In the cable he informed his excellency of the good news that work will immediately start on the Mother of Battles River, which will run for 140 km from Dhi Qar Governorate to the City of al-Chibayish, al-Hammah.

The project will be executed by the Military Industrialization Organization and other departments. The engineers have promised themselves that as soon as they complete one project, they will start a new one. [passage omitted]

Saddam's Remarks to Suq al-Shuyukh Tribesmen

JN0912121892 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 3

["Text" of remarks made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to a delegation of tribesmen from Suq al-Shuyukh District in Dhi Qar Governorate on 30 November]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said: The homeland deserves very precious sacrifices, even with our own blood. For, there is no dignity without the homeland; there is no glory without the homeland; and there is no honor or noble ideals without the homeland. If the people of any homeland do not rule themselves by themselves and do not achieve their own security by themselves, then nothing will remain in which to take pride.

True security for the homeland and the citizen is achieved at the hands of the faithful when faith exercises its effective influence on life.

God bless the people of Dhi Qar.

God bless our Suq al-Shuyukh kinfolk.

I tell you that the best thing about hard circumstances is that they reveal the true metals of people, and the metals of men in particular.

Everybody might not see the picture as it really is at a particular moment in time. Also, everyone might not act the way they really want to. But the important thing is that good men are always capable of knowing the picture as it really is, and of finding out what is best and most useful for their people. You have been this kind of people. God bless you.

It was said that Mu'awiyah Bin Abi-Sufyan [an Umayyad Muslim caliph] advised his son Yazid, among other things, that after his death, he should first secure a pledge of loyalty from 'Amr Bin-al-'As, because this man is known for his wit, shrewdness, and ability to maneuver. Mu'awiyah told his son about a simple plan to make 'Amr Bin-al-'As pledge loyalty to him. After Mu'awiyah's death, people came to attend his funeral, including his son Yazid and 'Amr Bin-al-'As. Yazid told 'Amr that his father asked him to tell 'Amr that he

should personally issue his battle. 'Amr Ibn-al-'As realized that there was some trick, but he completed out of respect for a request from a dead man and a caliph. When 'Amr descended into the grave and laid Mu'awiyah's body there, Yazid drew his sword, brandished it in 'Amr's face, and asked him to pledge that he will acknowledge him as caliph. Here, 'Amr looked at Yazid and addressed him: My nephew, by God this is not your doing, but his doing, as he was pointing at Mu'awiyah. 'Amr, of course, had to give Yazid the pledge.

Some people, especially from among the new generation, might not understand the meaning of this incident, unless their parents or teachers have already told them what it means. They might wonder, for example, could 'Amr Ibn-al-'As, in such a difficult situation, not make a pledge and later disavow it?

Some people do not understand that when men make a promise, they keep it. So, if 'Amr broke his promise, nobody would have believed him anymore, and he would gain nothing. Also, if he said that he conspired to pledge loyalty out of fear, then he would have been accused of cowardice. So, he was between the devil and the deep blue sea.

This incident and others from ancient Arab history tell us that one's word is his law, his judgement, his honor, and his status. A man who does not keep his word and maintain his positions will not have a good status among his people. That is why we have the popular saying: A man's word is binding.

I recounted this incident because I know how you make pledges to each other and how you make pledges to your homeland. The words in the documents you have read must have emanated from sound minds and hearts, especially when these words are uttered by people of your age and status.

God bless you. God bless the people of Suq al-Shuyukh and all the leaders of Dhi Qar. Blessed are the men whose zeal prompts them to come to the rescue of their homeland and honor in difficult circumstances. I think that all Iraqis experienced difficult circumstances last last August when the enemies declared their new conspiracy to partition Iraq and sow discord among its sons. But God has frustrated their hopes and the Iraqis have thwarted their plans. You were among those stalwart Iraqis, when you made this pledge among yourselves and promised your homeland that all your tribes will fight together in defense of great Iraq and foil any evil attempts by the treacherous ones.

When the enemies and agents learned about what you and your brothers decided to do, and when they realized that the men in the south have made the necessary preparations to confront them, the enemies were disappointed and God spurred on their evil. Praise be to God. God bless you.

I know what it means for an Arab to make a pledge, especially when the pledge is made by the elders of the tribe with all the meanings they represent. May God keep you out of harm's way. We pray to God not to force us to use weapons. But if we have to use weapons to defend our honor, then we have no other choice than committing our efforts to God and bearing arms in the face of every tyrant and arrogant and sinful aggressor.

The leader president added: History is defined by the minds of men. History will not speak about what we said we are, were, or planned. History records the results taken by men in connection with specific events.

True history is the history of nations; the history of nations is the logical and chronological sequence of men's deeds and positions. The documents you have written to remain loyal to the homeland will live for thousands of years. History will record that when your homeland faced a difficult situation in late August 1992, you made a pledge to defend your homeland. Homeland will be defended, especially when the possessors of the homeland are watchful, depending on God.

My conviction is that a person who lends the Iraqis is a winner, and if this person relies on God, then he will win in this life or/ I the hereafter. God willing, we will always win with you.

Regarding the positive role of Ba'thists and officials in Suq al-Shuyukh District, the leader president said: God bless the Ba'thists in this region. When you, the masses of their people, are pleased with them, then God will be pleased with them and I will be pleased with them. All their leaders will be satisfied with them and all of us will be satisfied if they watch over their people. The tasks you have cited for officials are the tasks we want and the cause to which we aspire.

On what the attendees said regarding the needs of their residential areas, the leader president said: I will send a ministerial committee to study these needs with the governor of Suq al-Shuyukh.

The committee will complete several technicians and specialists, so that the committee will be able to realize priorities in accordance with available means. I have also allocated a sum of money to develop services and remove gridlock in Suq al-Shuyukh and its environs.

The leader president added: The most important point I want you to tell our citizens there is that the resources of their country are theirs. Our role is only to be guardians over these resources, to ensure that they get to the people who deserve them.

Your country has plentiful resources. However, sometimes we are short of some mechanical and technical capabilities to complete what is required from us, something which forces the official in charge, in the governorate or at other levels, to set a list of priorities and a timetable for implementing them in an appropriate period of time. Despite this, God willing, we will take care of our country, people, and brothers. This is because it is our duty to take care of everyone. It is natural to say

on this occasion that we must put each man in the position he deserves in accordance with his stand and effort, and we will not neglect this, God willing. Our aspirations are always bigger than our resources. Our aspirations are embodied by the happy life we seek for you. As long as you have faith, you will achieve anything you want and which pleases God.

I would like to tell you something from the near past. During the 30-state aggression against our country, I used to inspect Army headquarters and acquaint myself with the progress of military operations. I also used to meet with the people, military commanders, and political leaders on all levels. Brigadier General 'Abid Hamid accompanied me during one of these tours, while the fighting and air bombardment were continuing. At that time, an idea occurred to me. I told him about it immediately. I told him that I was thinking of sending the special guards out of Baghdad, openly or secretly, in the hope that this would incite the states of the aggression, which knew that the other Army divisions were engaged in fighting there, to make a landing in Baghdad so that they could be buried there by our people who would come out to fight them. I proposed that half-seriously, half-jokingly. This is because the enemies were striking from a long distance with their known weapons. To make it clear, it is like someone who carries a double-barreled shotgun to face another man who is waiting for him with only a cudgel. So, in this case, the man who has a rifle must be lured into a place where the man with the cudgel can hit him. The brigadier general said that the special guards must not leave Baghdad, and that the Republican Guards must be left alone to perform their duties outside the capital. However, I emphasized to him that the objective was to lure them to enter Iraq, or otherwise, they would continue to strike from a long distance, although our young men will not fail to confront the aggressors, particularly the men of the air defense who fought uniquely in a way which will be recorded by history, along with the glorious fighting by all Iraqi Army units.

A few days ago, I read the statements of one of the commanders of the aggression. I also read his remarks on the cease-fire, which they initiated. He said something along the following lines: "Some sides criticize us because we did not enter Baghdad, and I tell these people that Baghdad is far away, not near, and that it was not among our decisions to go to Baghdad." Moreover, the U.S. president, who was the leader of the states of the aggression, said: "We must not get involved in a new Vietnam." This confession is in agreement with the viewpoints saying that the enemy feared direct confrontation with us, and direct fighting with the popular masses.

The truth of the matter, as you and I both know, does not lie in the fact that they did not want to enter Baghdad or that they did not decide to do so. Indeed, the matter lies in the fact that they tried but failed. They mobilized their armies in the beginning based on: the claim that Iraq had aggressive intentions toward Saudi Arabia and that they came to defend it. Later, their declared objective turned from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, where they said that they came to drive the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. Then, after we withdrew from Kuwait, they began to declare that their aim was to topple the Iraqi regime, or what they sometimes call the regime of Saddam Husayn or the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. These names mean only one thing: the people are ruling themselves by way of their revolution.

They want to topple the regime of the kinfolk of the country to bring in one of their agents or slaves to rule Iraq in his name or through him.

What prevented them from entering Baghdad was their failure during the first direct military confrontation with the Republican Guards, and then it was their fear of clashing with the popular masses. Hence, the reason they did not advance to Baghdad was not because there was no decision to do so, but because Baghdad was out of their reach. God willing, it will remain out of their reach and, God willing, every grain of Iraqi soil, indeed every grain of Arab soil, will remain out of their reach. God willing, Arabs will reach a stage of holding every grain of their soil far away from the covetous eyes' intentions. Good people constitute the majority and those who divert from the path of truth are a minority.

God protected us from attacking any one. Now, we, as, at the same time, will not abandon any of our rights. We are not the kind of people who give up their rights—I mean a right approved by God and by the people, and which we are all convinced is our right.

The other thing is that we do not allow anyone to attack us and we will not keep silent in the face of any aggressor. I firmly believe, as always, that our people can fight against the invaders and aggressors and defeat them, even if they do not have an army. During the 1920 revolution, we had no army in the south and, despite that, the British Army was defeated by using simple weapons, such as axes and catapults, while our people were shooting shotguns pressing those same simple weapons.

This confidence is increasing day after day. At a time when we are asking God to spare us from the evildoers, we say that if any foreign country thinks of attacking an area like Suq al-Shuyukh, we, instead of sending there our Army, will ask the kinfolk of the area to fight against the foreigner. They will fight him just like the kinfolk of al-Qurnah, and just like any other area in Iraq fights.

May God protect you and spare you from evildoers, whether they come from the north, south, east, or west of the homeland. The wall of Iraq will remain high, through God's will and through the faith of Iraq's kinfolk and the will of its sons.

Convey my greetings to all.

Soldiers Killed in Gaza Strip by 'Terrorist' Squad

TA0712123992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Here is an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's announcement: Three IDF soldiers were killed this morning in the vicinity of the al-Shuja'iyah Junction situated on the road bypassing the city of Gaza, by gunshots fired by a terrorist squad.

The soldiers are Reserves Lieutenants 'Amit Hagay and Zamir Udi. The relatives of the third fallen soldier have been notified.

Gaza Strip Closed

TA0712175292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Here is a report just in from our correspondent Moti Amir: At dawn tomorrow the security forces will impose a closure on the entire Gaza Strip and will take additional measures to enable them to act against the terrorist squad which attacked Israeli soldiers on the Gaza bypass road this morning.

Chief of Staff Ehud Barak announced today that various parts of the Gaza Strip may be placed under curfew in order to capture the murderers. Our correspondent points out that the efforts to capture the terrorists are now centered on intelligence information. It is known that the terrorists used a car bearing Gaza Strip license plates and fled the scene of the murder in it. Twenty 7.62-mm and 5.56-mm shell casings from Kalashnikov and Galil rifles or from M-16 rifles were found on the scene.

Hamas Said Responsible

TA0712151692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Local Arabs have told our correspondent Moti Amir that a group of 30 Hamas members marched at noon today in downtown Gaza, announcing that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam gang of Hamas was responsible for the terrorist attack in which three Israeli soldiers were killed early this morning.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently in Italy, has said that Israel will not let terror sabotage the peace talks and that it will continue to fight it.

Rabin Blames Radicals

TA0712163592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has placed the blame for today's attack in the Gaza Strip on Palestinian extremists who belong to radical Muslim groups and on the rejectionist organizations backed by Syria.

[Begin Rabin recording] I would not be surprised if these turn out to be radical Islamic elements, although I cannot be sure. This has been the case in the past prior to, or during, each round of peace talks in Washington. Murders took place in March, in April, and at the beginning of the year, in which five Israelis were killed—albeit not in one painful blow like this one. There is no doubt that we will have to take all steps necessary to confront and to continue dealing with this matter. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin was speaking in Rome. His remarks were brought to us by MA'ARIV correspondent 'Avino'am Bar-Yosef.

Peres Sees Need To Continue Talks

TA0812072892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, is abroad. We have his deputy, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, on the telephone line with us. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] After yesterday's attack and other recent incidents in Gaza, there is a feeling that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is losing control. Do you share this feeling?

[Peres] No, I do not. I do not believe that the defense policy has changed; the change is in the policy of peace. Unfortunately, we are familiar with these serious incidents. We are in pain. We weep for the IDF soldiers who really must pay the heaviest price for the defense of Israel. On this, however, we are all united and persistent. If there are disagreements, they exist in the political and not the defense sphere. When dealing with security, we have and will employ all the means needed to safeguard every human life, regardless of where the person lives or what nation he belongs to.

[Einstein] Last night, after three reservists were killed, calls were issued to return to the modes of operation we used in the 1970's to quell the murderous terrorism. What do you say to that?

[Peres] Did terror not return after the 1970's? There is this illusion that in the 1970's some dramatic and historic shift took place. It did not. There was a brief respite, and then things became very serious again, as they used to be. I do not want to uphold legends. We are dealing with living people who oppose the peace process. We are dealing with people who hate Israel and us. No one is denying that.

The problem we are facing is slightly different. We know that the Palestinians are divided; this is not new. To whom should we give priority: to those who reject peace or to those who want to hold peace negotiations with us? There is no point in denying that such disagreements exist. Those who use firearms are not only hurting our soldiers; they are trying to murder the peace process. You know, several days ago there was this shocking scene

in the Gaza Strip in which they executed a man in front of reporters and on camera. This is part of the same struggle. Therefore, if there are disagreements among us, they are not over security. Here the IDF gives advice, and the political echelons usually accept it. We will use all the means necessary to provide security and protect the lives of the people. This is our nation's unifying and historic duty.

[Einstein] Should the security means not be changed to protect Israelis and soldiers in those areas?

[Peres] Look, if the changes suggested are within the framework of the law, no one will argue with that. Do you believe that anyone would prevent the use of any method if it provides security? There may be professional disagreements. This, too, is not new. In general, there is no dispute about the need to use whatever means—human or tactical—required to reduce dangers and prevent a terror attack, and they are used.

[Einstein] In view of the recent events in the Gaza Strip—you mentioned the execution in broad daylight in central Rafah; yesterday there was the grave terror attack; there are constant riots there—perhaps we are talking peace with Palestinians who do not represent the majority of the residents of the territories?

[Peres] I do not know about the majority. The majority does not shoot at us; a minority does. All the signs indicate that the majority wants the negotiations. According to public opinion polls I have seen on the residents of the territories, the majority wants the talks; it is a minority that uses arms. The Palestinians will also have to choose a decisionmaking method: by force of arms or the force of the majority. If there are no elections and the majority will not be able to have its say, the guns will continue to run wild, hurting them as well as us. This is why we offered elections. The real alternative to violence, terror, and decisions made at gunpoint is a democratic decision by the majority.

[Einstein] I gather that you do not believe we should suspend the peace talks in Washington in view of the attack?

[Peres] Absolutely not. This would give the floor to the Gaza murderers and give them the right to make decisions.

[Einstein] Not even after we heard that the Palestinians sent a minimal delegation to this round of talks, with no serious intention of making progress?

[Peres] The Palestinians who negotiate with us employ tactics. Reducing the delegation is part of this tactic. They did not decide to quit the peace process; they decided to demonstrate their displeasure. Fine. We can understand that people employ tactics. Sometimes they may be wrong, yet the process must go on. Let us not forget that terrorism, violence, and attacks on our soldiers have always been our lot. The difference is that now we have a peace process.

[Einstein] Sir, is the time not right to raise for discussion a proposal which was made in the past to conduct a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip? Why should we be there at all? Who needs this?

[Peres] Look, we have a chance to attain a bilateral agreement. Even those who propose unilateral withdrawal have not stopped preferring a bilateral agreement. If you make a unilateral move, you may lose control. Therefore, as long as there is a chance to reach an agreement, it is better for the issue itself and for the two parties.

[Einstein] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you.

[Peres] Thank you.

More Attacks Expected

TA0712140592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1242 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Three Israeli Defense Force [IDF] soldiers were killed this morning by terrorist gunfire near al-Shaja'iyah junction, on the Gaza city bypass road. The names of two of the dead soldiers are reserves Lieutenant 'Amit Hagay, and Staff Sergeant Zamir Udi. The family of the third fallen soldier has been notified.

Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said that today's attack in Gaza came against the background of 9 December [the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the intifadah] and the attempts being made by the terrorist organizations to emphasize their ability to strike at Israel after five years of intifadah.

The chief of staff arrived at the scene of today's attack in the Gaza Strip and spoke with correspondents. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was there:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, the intifadah broke out five years ago and today there was yet another shooting in the Gaza Strip. Is there any connection between the two things?

[Barak] A little before 0530 this morning, an Army jeep which was patrolling the main road behind you was overtaken by a local vehicle which opened up with automatic weapons fire from two rifles, hitting the three soldiers in the jeep—an officer, a soldier, and a driver, all reserves soldiers who were engaged in operational activity. All three soldiers were killed. The attack itself is very serious, both with regard to its consequences and in light of the daring shown by its perpetrators. Over the past two months, there have been approximately 20 incidents in which shots were fired at IDF soldiers and military installations in the Gaza Strip. This time they were successful, with very serious repercussions for us. On the part of the IDF, I would like to express our condolences to the bereaved families. Together with the other branches of the security forces we will make an intensive and exceptional effort to capture the perpetrators of this severe attack whose identity remains unknown at the moment. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 7 December also carries an interview with Chief of Staff Baraq in which he adds: "I estimate that this attack is linked to 9 December and to the effort by the terrorist organizations, whether by the more radical elements or the Fatah itself, to show that they have the ability to strike at us even after five years of intifadah. We should expect these efforts by radical elements to forcefully impose their desire on Israel for as long as the peace process and the attempts to resolve the conflict through a dialogue continue. It goes without saying that we will not allow this to happen even if we sometimes have to pay the price in blood. There has been a rise in shooting incidents over the course of the past year together with a drop in street violence. There are no guarantees, however, and we may face renewed outbreaks of street violence as well as an increase in the number of shooting incidents in the future. At the same time, the security forces and the IDF have scored many successes over the past year in the area, in both trapping and killing wanted men, and in forcing many of the most dangerous fugitives to flee the areas under our control. These two processes will continue simultaneously. We will have to pursue the battle against wanted men on the one hand, while bolstering the IDF's defenses and guaranteeing the security of civilian traffic."

[When asked whether the IDF is considering redeployment in the Gaza Strip in the wake of today's attack, Baraq says: "We brought in reinforcements already at the beginning of the week, and we shall maintain large forces in the area at least until the end of the week because of the fifth anniversary of the intifadah."

[The chief of staff notes: "The attack took place despite our deployment. We must know that our deployment and modus operandi in this struggle—which is similar to war in certain respects but does not permit us to adopt all the methods employed in warfare—exposes weak points that are occasionally exploited by the other side. We must not delude ourselves: we may suffer further casualties in this struggle."]

Settlers Blame Government 'Weakness'

TA0712141292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has blamed the recent spate of terrorist attacks in the territories, including today's incident in the Gaza Strip, on the government's security policies. 'Uzi Landau, the chairman of the Likud's security committee, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the government's clear message to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is to refrain from any serious confrontations with the terrorists in order to assure the success of the peace talks.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan believes that it is time for Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to draw the appropriate conclusions and resign. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip declared that the conciliatory gestures made to the Arabs, in return for what it called a fistful of guarantees and the continuation of the Washington talks, project weakness and encourage terrorist attacks. The council's statement was reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

Iraqi Soldier Seeks Asylum After Crossing Border

TA0812123992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] An Iraqi Army soldier who entered Israel north of Eilat some three weeks ago was charged with infiltration at the Eilat court this morning. The soldier, 24-year-old Salih 'Atawi, was captured in the Jordan Rift Valley wearing a commando uniform of the Iraqi Army. He said that he had been persecuted in his country because he opposed Saddam Husayn and that he seeks political asylum in Israel or any other country.

Our correspondent reports that Justice Shlomo Bar-Eli stipulated that a man's freedom is of importance even if he is an infiltrator and agreed to extend his remand by only five more days.

Undercover Units Fire on Each Other on West Bank

TA0712212392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Two border policemen and a soldier from a paratroopers battalion were wounded by gunfire this evening in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah in the Janin area. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Moti Amir reports that Army soldiers dressed up as Arabs spotted silhouettes of border policemen, also dressed up as Arabs, moving in the same area. The two units opened fire at each other, and two border policemen and a paratrooper were wounded. Soldiers in both units realized their mistake and halted the fire. Medical teams and ambulances were summoned to the scene, and they evacuated the casualties to Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula. Our correspondents point out that senior officers rushed to the scene to conduct a debriefing to ascertain why the two units were operating in the same area without prior coordination.

Reportage on General Strike Call in Territories

TA0612120892

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 6 December reports that "Islamic Jihad today called for a general strike throughout the Gaza Strip to mark the fifth anniversary of the intifadah. According to official military sources, however, few local residents responded to the call. The sources said a partial commercial strike is being observed today in Gaza city, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah. Over 30,000 workers crossed Gaza checkpoints this morning on their way to jobs in Israel, which attests to a relatively meager response to Islamic Jihad's call."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 6 December reports: "In Jerusalem this morning, police are on increased alert as the fifth anniversary of the start of the intifadah approaches. This morning there was an attempt to blow up the Jerusalem Vehicle Licensing Department. It was foiled, but a fire at the site gutted the building."

"Masked men this morning shot and killed a resident of the village of 'Illar near Tulkarm. The murdered woman, Faradas 'Abd- al-'Aziz, aged 27, was the mother of seven children. The Black Panther group has taken responsibility for the murder, saying she was killed because of immoral behavior.

"The mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur have published a statement accusing the Israeli authorities of not doing enough to protect Palestinians in the territories. The mayors were responding to the outcome of an armed robbery in Bethlehem last week in which a local resident, Najib Mansur, was murdered. The mayors also charged the authorities have been (?seconding) police and border policemen for a campaign to collect taxes, while ignoring efforts to keep law and order in the territories."

Rabinovich Comments on Syria, Ambassador's Task

TA0412124092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 4 Dec 92 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, chief delegate to the peace talks with Syria and ambassador-designate to Washington, by Shim'on Schiffer; place and date not given]

[Text] [Schiffer] Professor Rabinovich, is it possible to achieve a peace agreement with Syria without a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] First, we can try. Second, we will not get the answer to this question all at once. We must first pass the first stage—the question of whether a peace agreement with Syria is attainable at all—and then broach the second question.

In the second stage, we tell the Syrians that the principle of withdrawal is acceptable to us, that we realize there is no peace for peace, and that there is no peace without a price. The principle of withdrawal within the framework of genuine peace is acceptable to us.

During this stage, we tell the Syrians: You must explain your concept of genuine peace to us. We are not prepared even to start thinking about the third stage—the one you term "full withdrawal"—before you clarify the second stage to us.

[Schiffer] Suppose the Syrians say in the next round of talks that "full peace" means diplomatic relations in return for full withdrawal and the removal of settlements from the Golan Heights. Is Israel prepared for this possibility?

[Rabinovich] In these negotiations, my job is to get Syria to tell us what we want it to say. The moment I and my associates in the delegation hear the Syrians say that, we will communicate it to our superiors. The final decision will naturally be made by the political echelons.

I will only insist that their replies be full and precise, absolutely clear, without subterfuge. With that I am referring to the remarks made in New York by the Syrian foreign minister, who said that Syria is ready to give Israel full peace in return for full withdrawal from all the Arab lands. To me this formula seems to be something designed to enable Syria to dodge the challenge we confronted it with. This is not the kind of answer I meant.

[Schiffer] Do you believe in the possibility that Syria will follow Egypt's example and agree to an Israeli embassy in Damascus in return for full withdrawal?

[Rabinovich] I do not rule out this possibility. At the same time, I have seen no signs indicating that this may happen in the near future.

[Schiffer] If no progress is achieved in the next few months, can we expect American involvement?

[Rabinovich] I am not afraid of crises in negotiations. The negotiations with Egypt were also fraught with crises. Abstract talk of American involvement is difficult. With the Bush-Baker administration, we were able to predict how the protagonists would implement the element of involvement. We know very little about Clinton's outlook and the direction in which his activities will be channeled in the sphere of foreign policy. It is still unclear who his secretary of state and national security adviser will be. Therefore, any attempt to predict what shape—if any—the American involvement will assume is tricky and unproductive.

We must remember that vis-a-vis the United States, Syria does not have the advantages of Egypt. During the Cold War, Egypt made a turnabout, providing the United States with the most spectacular diplomatic reversal the United States has ever had in the Middle East; simultaneously, it drew closer to Israel.

[Schiffer] What do you think is most likely to happen if the talks break down?

[Rabinovich] One of the possibilities is an outbreak of violence, both by Palestinians and in the Lebanese arena.

But the ability to hold one's ground in the negotiations is an outcome of the ability to stand up to pressure. Al-Asad is known as a very patient negotiator with the ability to wear out his opponents, with nerves of steel, and with a penchant for testing his opponents' nerves. We must be up to it.

The Syrians made a brief attempt to concoct a crisis during the sixth round of talks. When we made it clear to them that we were not panicking—there was also good coordination with the U.S. Administration—they stopped it. I hope we will not have to face a deeper crisis, but if we do, our capability to deal with the development with equanimity—and I am not referring only to the government and the delegation, but to the Israeli public, too—will be part of our secret of success in the subsequent negotiations.

[Schiffer] Would you be willing to specify the achievements Israel has scored in the talks with Syria so far?

[Rabinovich] We have a series of agreements on formulations, which have not been anchored in writing. We have a paper the Syrians handed us which I say is insufficient.

I would like us to achieve an agreed declaration of principles, but I am not sure we will be able to do it in the near future. We have, however, obtained from the Syrians things pertaining to the ceremonial-behavioral aspect. It is significant because the full boycott of Israel was not only a matter of extreme conduct, but also an expression of a profound Syrian position.

The willingness to diminish the elements of boycott—to shake hands, to have coffee together—is also a significant shift. We must remember that the Syrians themselves had insisted on this as a matter of principle: They said they would not shake hands or drink coffee with an enemy. The value of this shift must not be overestimated, but it should not be dismissed either.

Moreover, there has been a certain change in the way the talks are presented to the Syrian public. The changes are too subtle, too flimsy for our liking. We would like to see them occur faster and more rigorously.

[Schiffer] You met with the prime minister before you took on the task of conducting the talks. Do you know his precise concept of the nature of peace with Syria and the nature of the withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] I have not asked, I will not ask, and I do not expect to get an answer about the precise price Prime Minister Rabin would personally be willing to pay for this peace. I believe that in a relationship between a negotiator and a leader, there are things the leader should keep to himself. No prime minister will give an accurate reply to questions about hypothetical situations.

When we eventually reach the point where a crucial decision is required, Rabin will have to convene the government as well as the Knesset, to obtain support for the degree of concessions he will intend to propose.

All I needed at the beginning of my mission was an indication that Israel wants to conduct serious negotiations with Syria, that it wants to achieve an arrangement with Syria, and that it is also willing to pay a price for these negotiations. That was enough.

I had no problem with my mandate during the negotiations, and I am not pressing for more powers. Up to this point, I was able to conduct the talks with the mandate I was granted, without being in distress at any given moment. Rabin gave me enough rope.

[Schiffer] If you come to realize that there will be no chance for an arrangement without giving up all of the Golan Heights, will you tell Rabin that?

[Rabinovich] I think it will be my duty to do that. Observing is one of the tasks of those who are in charge of negotiations. One is at the same time a representative, a negotiator, a communicator of information or hunches, but also an observer and a reader of intentions. If I reach a certain conclusion, I believe it will be my duty to report it promptly and precisely.

[Schiffer] Do you report to Rabin frequently?

[Rabinovich] Yes.

[Schiffer] How?

[Rabinovich] Without going into technical details, we see to it that the reports are made in real time. After all, this is one of the central issues on the government's agenda, and the prime minister has to be updated on the main points of negotiations in real time, as far as circumstances permit.

[Schiffer] You are soon leaving for the United States to serve as Israel's next ambassador. What, in your view, are the main tasks of this post?

[Rabinovich] Some tasks are always central in the U.S.-Israeli relations: the U.S. aid, developing the ties with the U.S. Jewry, maintaining a dialogue with the administration.

But there are things which are exclusive to the coming period. A new administration is about to be inducted, and we are in the midst of a peace process. At present, we have two paramount tasks: to build a relationship with the Clinton administration and to draft a negotiating pattern for the peace process.

[Schiffer] It has been recently suggested that Israel should offer to waive some of the economic aid it receives from the United States. What do you think of that?

[Rabinovich] There is no point in making radical pronouncements when the outcome is unclear and can be do more harm than good. We are still unfamiliar with the Clinton administration's "new priorities," and I do not think we should charge into what may prove an open door.

[Schiffer] You said at an internal discussion held in Foreign Minister Peres' office after Clinton's victory that it is time to apprise the Jewish American community of the fact that peace has a price. What did you mean?

[Rabinowich] First of all, I am glad to find out again that internal discussions are enlightening both to the participants and the public at large. To the point, I learned in contacts with Jewish American leaders that some of them find it hard to accept our announcement that we are ready to pay a price for peace.

We will have to explain to the Jewish community that we do not conduct a peace-for-peace policy, but rather a policy of peace which contains an element of concession; not surrender, only concession.

[Schiffer] Do you share the criticism Prime Minister Rabin leveled at the Israeli lobby in the United States, AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee], in the course of his U.S. visit in August?

[Rabinowich] A few things have changed in AIPAC since then. The organization has elected a new president, Steve Grossman, so let us leave the past alone. I think that now we ought to focus on how the organization will operate under his leadership, and not on what happened in the past.

[Schiffer] What would you like AIPAC to do?

[Rabinowich] First of all, I would not like it to inflict harm on itself—which reportedly happened in the past weeks. I think the organization should function as a lobby acting first and foremost vis-a-vis the legislative body of the U.S. Administration, as it has done successfully for many years.

[Schiffer] Prevailing assessments contend that the Clinton administration may be interested in disarming the Middle East of nuclear, biological, and mass destruction weapons. What kind of contacts on this issue do you think you will have with the administration?

[Rabinowich] It is impossible and undesirable to go into this issue, but objectively, I see no problem in carrying on the basic understanding between the United States and Israel on these issues.

[Schiffer] An understanding under which the Americans will continue ignoring and not intruding in what goes on in this sphere in Israel?

[Rabinowich] To the best of my knowledge, there have been no problems between the United States and us in these spheres for quite a few years, and I see no reason why this situation should not continue.

[Schiffer] What crisis, do you think, will be the first to preoccupy you as our ambassador to the United States?

[Rabinowich] It is a good question, to which I have an instant answer. However, I am not about to tell you that I believe there will be no crisis, because crises occur even in genuinely close relationships. But I do not think I can make an intelligent guess in this case.

Iraqi Scientist Murdered in Amman; 2 Suspects Held

JN0812091692 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[By Hayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] Amman—Yesterday morning, two unknown assailants fired four bullets from a revolver equipped with a silencer at engineer Mu'ayyad Hasan Naji al-Jinabi, 52, in front of his house in the Jabal al-Hussayn area, killing him instantly.

Al-Jinabi, the murdered person, was a nuclear scientist. He worked with the International Atomic Energy Agency until 1986. Since then, he has worked as an engineer at the Iraqi Military Industrialization Organization.

Details of the incident indicate that the murdered Iraqi scientist, together with his wife, was on his way to the Tunisian Embassy to obtain a transit visa so that he could go to Libya.

When he was 600 meters away from his house, he was surprised by the two assailants, one of whom was wearing a black jacket. The one in the black jacket fired four shots straight at the Iraqi scientist's head. He fell to the ground and his wife began to shout.

The competent security authorities began a large-scale combing operation in the area in search of the killer, who is believed to have driven away in a GMC truck bearing Iraqi license plates.

The police have managed to apprehend a person suspected of involvement in the case aboard a plane at Queen Alia International Airport, which was about to leave Jordan. Meanwhile, another suspect was apprehended in the al-Suwaylih area.

The investigation commission at the al-Hussayn police station has begun initial investigations into the crime.

The Amman public prosecutor, Brigadier General Ghalib al-Za'bi, police director of the Amman Governorate, and his aides hurried to the scene of the incident to investigate the circumstances of the crime.

Reuters Hype Aimed at Aiding Stalemate Separatists

JN0712124192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "From Hanoi and Beirut, to Mogadishu"]

[Text] The Americans will go to Somalia while their eyes are watching, full of hatred and rancor, the pride of fraternal Sudan, and its refusal to submit to the American will. We hope that the Americans' arrival in Somalia and their entanglement there will be similar to their arrival in and subsequent departure from Vietnam in the defeat of the age. We also hope that everyone in the Horn of Africa, in Sudan in particular, and all over our Arab homeland will follow the Americans eyes, and work together to make life so difficult for the U.S. soldiers that their lives will become a real hell.

It is not true that the fierce beast, which is tightening its grip on millions of Arab children in Iraq, Palestine, and many other corners of the Arab world, will overnight turn into a Santa Claus or Mother Teresa, carrying bread instead of Napalm, milk instead of cluster bombs, and that he will put the children on his lap instead of crushing them with his tanks, bombs, and racial rage.

President Bush has described the Somali citizens as "Somali brothers." Choosing this name is enough to imagine the magnitude of the disaster that is awaiting the people of the Horn of Africa, and to imagine what Washington will offer the separatists in southern Sudan after they have almost surrendered, and after they have become unable to continue devastating this Arab country with the anti-Arab oil, Israeli weapons, and the complicity of the U.S. allies. Operation Restore Hope aims to rescue the Sudanese separatists and not the Somali citizens. This U.S. endeavor, which precedes Bush's departure from the White House, cannot be derived from anything other than his desire to place the Democrats at an impasse from which it will be difficult to emerge.

The Kuwaiti Government welcomed the new U.S. invasion, and so did Israel. The rest of Washington's allies in the Gulf war do not hide their pleasure at watching their master flexing his muscles. We are watching this scene and we appreciate the warning of the U.S. ambassador in Kenya when his government asked for his opinion. The U.S. ships, however, reached the Somali coasts before he could state this opinion. The ambassador's opinion clearly refers to the U.S. defeat in Vietnam and Lebanon. He is worried that this defeat may be repeated in Somalia in a way that is even more humiliating for the strong American—the world's only power, distinguishable by his strong muscles, long claws, and powerful tanks, which are used to defend human kind and human rights.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Talks Agenda

NC0712091992 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p 3

["Text" of interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified correspondent in Beirut on 4 December]

[Excerpt] [Al-Safir] How true are reports that the Jordanian negotiating delegation asked for amendments to the agenda for talks with Israel after the Palestinians expressed their opposition?

[Abu-Jabir] First, it is an agenda and any item included in it might take weeks and even months. We Jordanians—as are also—have demanded the amendments. The agenda is not subject to approval by any party other than the Jordanian in the first, second, or third place.

The time has come after one year of negotiations to agree on what we will discuss. Nothing else was done.

[Al-Safir] Will the document weaken or impede the other tracks?

[Abu-Jabir] On the contrary. The outcome of the meetings held in Amman, Damascus, and now Beirut show that progress on any one of the tracks will help the other tracks, not the opposite. If progress is made on the Lebanese track, this should supposedly constitute a precedent for progress, for example, on the Syrian track, the Jordanian, or the Palestinian one. That is what has happened. We asked the Palestinians to come to Amman to clarify some points. This initiative originated with us.

[Al-Safir] What was their stand?

[Abu-Jabir] We consulted them on some points.

[Al-Safir] How true are reports that the agenda clause referring to "the territories occupied since 1967" would be amended to include Jerusalem and what about the other amendment on refugees?

[Abu-Jabir] It has become clear to everybody that we are insisting the crisis solution should be comprehensive, just, and lasting on all tracks. This includes all issues relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We demanded the amendment of issues included in the agenda and this amendment remains subject to negotiations, because we had not agreed by the time the seventh round ended.

[Al-Safir] What were the requested amendments?

[Abu-Jabir] They are in favor of the Arabs, the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese.

[Al-Safir] Do they concern Jerusalem?

[Abu-Jabir] They concern everything.

[Al-Safir] What do you expect from the new U.S. Administration?

[Abu-Jabir] First, the Arab-Israeli conflict is an Arab conflict with Israel and the occupied territories are Arab ones.

[Al-Safir] But aren't the negotiations held under the auspices of Washington and Moscow?

[Abu-Jabir] This is true, but we are the ones who are negotiating, nobody else. It is true that the negotiations are held under the auspices of the Russians and Americans. We appreciate this and demand that it continues. But the negotiations have taken an independent character and the U.S. president-elect has reiterated that the peace process should continue and that he would back it like his predecessor. We don't believe there will be a radical change.

[Al-Safir] What do you think of the possible appointment of former President Carter as an envoy to the region?

[Abu-Jabir] This issue concerns the next Administration. There is talk that shows their interest in the continuity of the negotiations and boosting them. Carter knows the region and his appointment will be a good thing.

[Al-Safir] Does Jordan view this step positively?

[Abu-Jabir] At least Carter knows the area and does not need to become acquainted with King Husayn or President Hafiz al-Asad; he knows them and the region's problems. We will not need to "study him all over again." Anyone else will not have a complete knowledge of the issues.

[Al-Safir] How do you assess the future of the negotiations?

[Abu-Jabir] They will continue.

[Al-Safir] Slowly?

[Abu-Jabir] Our people always lack patience. The U.S. negotiations with the Vietcong took over a year just to agree on the shape of the table. The Arab-Israeli conflict has been going on ideologically for at least 100 years and militarily for 40 years. It will not be solved in a day or a month. We are talking today about Jerusalem, south Lebanon, the Golan, and the occupied territories. These are all extremely important issues and it is my view that the year has not been a waste. It is also my view that this year has shown that the Arab negotiator on all tracks is operating very deftly and cleverly.

[Al-Safir] Where have the multilateral negotiations reached?

[Abu-Jabir] We believe no progress will be made in the multilateral talks if there is no progress in the bilateral negotiations. Any negotiations on economy or environment will not progress if there is no agreement on the bases and principles. We in Jordan are insisting on the bases, principles, and frameworks—on international legitimacy, restoring territory for peace, and withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. It is like a deal between two parties if agreement is reached on the bases and principles. We are participating in the multilateral talks because they are an opportunity for us to make our voice heard by the other participating countries. [passage omitted on Abu-Jabir's statement on arrival in Beirut]

King Visits Armed Forces General Command 7 Dec

JN0712173192 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] His majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the Armed Forces General Command where he was received by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of the General Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib and senior officers.

His majesty met with Field Marshal Abu-Talib and discussed a number of issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Prince Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Deputy Shubaylat on Democracy, Islam, Peace

PM0712180992 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Report on interview with Jordanian deputy Layth Shubaylat by Wafa' 'Umar in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] The democratic experiment in Jordan has gone through several tests over the past three years. Some were passed easily and others with difficulty. But the most difficult test, which threatened the eruption of what had been a dormant volcano, was the "Islamic Mobilization Youth" case and the death sentence against deputies Layth Shubaylat and and Ya'qub Qirrish, which was commuted immediately to 20 years imprisonment with hard labor on charges of belonging to this organization, whose aim is to overthrow the regime, and possessing automatic weapons and explosives.

King Husayn was forced to intervene personally here to settle the situation. The message was clear: Democracy will continue, but everything has limits; this process has a ceiling which should not be exceeded, and anyone who fails to understand "Jordanian democracy" must think again to find what deters him. Two days after the sentence was passed on the two deputies King Husayn issued a decision granting amnesty for all detainees, including the two deputies. [passage omitted]

Supporters and opponents of the Jordanian monarch's policies admit that, regardless of King Husayn's concept of democracy, he remains the most democratic of all in his country.

But are the forces calling themselves "democratic forces" really democratic?

Deputy Shubaylat himself has answered this question, since his case concerns democracy and he expresses his opposition and political views more openly than other deputies. And he is the one demanding freedoms more loudly than any other deputy. And he was the strongest in his determination to fight corruption and bring those responsible for corruption to trial.

He said: "Regrettably, the people have many democratic ambitions and aspirations, but no democratic forces exist in Jordan. What is amazing is that the only democratic force in 1992 is His Majesty King Husayn." [passage omitted]

Describing King Husayn's march, Shubaylat says: He is ahead of all his people in advocating openness and implementation of democracy.

He says: "Perhaps King Husayn's democracy is different from the one in which I believe, but it is still a democracy." [passage omitted]

Deputy Shubaylat believes that democracy is complex, not something that is granted. And that the emergence of openness which Jordan is currently experiencing was the result of "the April 1989 uprising. And that the forces calling themselves democratic forces exploited the April incidents to achieve their interests. I mean all political organizations and tendencies, leftist and rightist. They do not represent the people's aspirations, since they are undemocratic forces."

Deputy Shubaylat does not believe that democracy has been born yet. He fears the eruption of another explosion which could be more ferocious than the uprising which the people of the south staged three years ago. And it could erupt from the south again. He warns about the deterioration of conditions, because he believes that the political forces and parliament are not effective. [passage omitted]

Deputy Shubaylat refuses to join the Islamic movements existing in Jordan. He is an independent Islamist. And he criticizes the Islamic movement which does not reflect and express the people's aspirations. The general tendency is the Islamic Brotherhood. He says they know the limits of the game but what they are doing is less than the specified ceiling.

"Islam is the solution" is the slogan raised by the Islamic movement. Deputy Shubaylat believes that it is a correct slogan. "But the Islamic movement is not the solution."

He believes that the Islamic movements which will occupy the region are those for which he and [National Islamic Front leader] Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan are calling.

Deputy Shubaylat believes that Islamic society is that society which provides justice and freedom for the people and in which people feel human. He says: "I am for human rights and justice and accept any system, Islamic or secular, if it provides justice and human rights for the people. Islam is perfection. I want sublime principles. And in my view, here lies the greatness of Islam, that is, if those who believe in it understand it.

Deputy Shubaylat rejects Western democracy and the concept of new world order democracy. According to his description, it is an institution designed to enslave the Third World, exactly as Henry Kissinger said. This is because the democracy wanted for the Third World is that which forces the peoples to seek help from the IMF and GATT and turns them into consumer societies. It is a process of imposing fascism through democracy.

The West, he said, is declining now because it has moved away from human and Christian values. And the true number of humanity prevails in the West today. The examples of this are numerous. There is the Africa and Iraq example. "The problem is that the West is lying to us with democracy. It talks about it but denies us it. The war against the Third World is a war of starvation and boycott." [passage omitted]

As is known, Deputy Shubaylat is opposed to the peace process. And the opposition is supposed to express the people's wishes, feelings, and positions, since the other

side represents a fait accompli or an inherited situation. And democracy means that the deputy should express the people's aspirations and convey the people's demands to the influential authorities, and that the people's voice should not be silenced.

Despite his opposition to the peace process, and despite his popularity as a deputy, Shobaylat admits that, if democracy is really adopted and the people cast their vote, the peace process would win the elections. That is, the people want peace, and the opposition does not reflect the people's position on that issue.

He also admits that factions exist inside everyone. "Who is not fascist? In Jordan the government has always been fascist, the parliament fascist, and the journalists fascist. [passage omitted]

On the Islamic Mobilization Youths Organization case, Deputy Shobaylat emphasizes that he knows nothing about that organization. "I confirm that I am innocent of all the charges against me." [passage omitted]

He was accused of attempting to threaten the regime, but he wonders: "Who shook the regime? Was it Layth Shobaylat, Layth Shobaylat's trial, or the force of the military court's procedures?" Deputy Shobaylat said: "If I were those who advise the king..." Then he stopped talking, so I asked him: Would you agree to work as an adviser to King Hussayn? He smiled and answered calmly: "It would be an honor for me to work as an adviser to King Hussayn, but without a salary. But I would not accept a post in the executive authority."

Hamas Denies Link With Armed Group Seized Here

PM0712145292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Denies Link With Armed Jordanian Organization"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" in Jordan, has denied rumors about the uncovering of an armed group said to belong to the movement. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he emphasized that these reports are "fabricated and absolutely baseless," pointing out that they are aimed at incitement against Hamas.

A Jordanian newspaper had published a report to the effect that a few days ago security organs seized a new fundamentalist group comprising some 20 people most of whom are from the Shobak [as transliterated] camp near Amman and from al-Zarqa' city, and found in their possession arms, ammunition, and explosives. The newspaper added that members of the organization said they belonged to Hamas.

Government Legalizes 2 More Political Parties

JN0812120092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Authorities Monday legalized two more political parties, both pro-establishment, in line with the new Political Parties Law enacted this year.

The Popular Union Party (PUP) and the Pledge Party secured formal recognition from the Ministry of Interior Monday.

"It's a sentimental moment," Talal al-Ramahi, secretary general of the PUP, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "My party owes total allegiance to His Majesty King Hussayn and our principles are based on the idea of Arab unity."

The new law allowing political parties went into effect Sept. 1.

On Thursday, the Jordan National Alliance Party became the first licensed group in Jordan since political parties were banned in 1957.

But the Ministry of Interior rejected applications by the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party on grounds that their ideology and objectives clashed with the Kingdom's Constitution and the new parties law.

A number of political groupings Monday demanded that the Ministry of Interior reverse its decision to refuse the license applications of the Jordanian Communist Party and the Ba'th Party.

The Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Progressive Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Unity Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said in a joint statement that the ministry's decision to turn down the Communist and Ba'thist applications "rings an alarm bell over the future of other democratic groupings in the Kingdom."

"We declare our rejection of the decision to deny the two parties the license (to operate as political parties) and demand that the government reverse its decision in the service of national unity and for the purpose of consolidating the democratic process," said the statement, which was relayed to the Jordan Times.

The statement said the reasons cited by the Ministry of Interior in rejecting the two parties' applications "contradict the Constitution which sanctions the formation of political parties on the condition that their objectives are legal and peaceful."

It called on the government to reconsider the decision and license the two parties "in line with political pluralism and freedom of expression."

According to the law, parties are not allowed to have financial or ideological links with external organizations.

The Communists, long considered connected with foreign powers, and the Ba'th with its emphasis on unity with fellow Arabs, were considered by the ministry to fall into this category.

The ministry still is reviewing other applications, including that of the Islamic Action Front, representing the powerful fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood movement, which has been functioning for more than 40 years as a welfare organization.

Hizbullah Leader Denies Holding Israeli Navigator

NC0812083292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Hizbullah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has said that the statement attributed to detained Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd [by a U.S. television network] was made under Israeli pressure. We believe that the issuance of such statements, and at this particular time, he explained, is prompted by the Israeli enemy's embarrassment over the continued unjustified detention of Shaykh 'Ubayd following an act of piracy in southern Lebanon, and also over the unjustified detention of many people in the prisons of the enemy and its agents.

Shaykh Qasim said the enemy knows full well that the Israeli navigator is not held by Hizbullah. We are talking about only two prisoners. The enemy is making this maneuver to rid itself of the embarrassment. But things are known and clear: It is an aggressive enemy, and it will not be able to conceal its objectives by this method, through which it is trying to extort us.

We are very clear, Shaykh Qasim said. All detainees in the prisons of the enemy and its agents must be released. As for us, there is nothing new. We are holding only two prisoners, and we will not discuss any other issue.

Resistance Reportedly Clashes With SLA Troops

Resistance Claims 8 Casualties

NC0812175992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that the al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah have come under sporadic artillery bombardment from the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah Hills. At 1600, the bombardment was accompanied by bursts of heavy machine-gun fire.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that one of its groups attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol with rockets and machine guns between the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions. The statement said a truck was destroyed and eight personnel were killed or injured.

'Heroic Operation' Reported

NC0712074092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The resistance against the occupation troops and their agents continues. An Islamic Resistance group performed the latest heroic operation against a patrol of agent militiamen near 'Alman-al-Shumariyah position at approximately 1600 yesterday. The resistance fighters clashed with patrol members using machine guns and rockets, destroying a vehicle and killing or wounding eight patrol members.

Elaborating on the operation, the Islamic Resistance stated that it had pledged itself and its people to pursue the path to which it is committed. Fulfilling the policy of resisting the enemy as the only way to force it to withdraw from our territory, the mujahidin from the groups of martyrs Fu'ad Mudawi, As'ad Shahrur, and Fuad al-Hariri of the Islamic Resistance laid an ambush at 1545 yesterday for a mechanized Lahd militia patrol along al-Shumariyah road. The mujahidin sprang on the patrol and sprayed it with a hail of rocket and machine-gun fire. One vehicle was set ablaze and all those inside were either killed or wounded.

The Islamic Resistance promised the late Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified; leader Khamenei'i, may God preserve him; and our resisting people to remain vigilant in their defense.

The occupation and agent troops resumed their customary criminal acts, which they never stopped in the first place. All last night they shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and al-Litani river banks. No civilian casualties have been reported.

SLA Retaliates for Attack

NC0712083192 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in the central sector came under machine-gun fire last night, but there was no damage. The unit manning the post retaliated immediately and the SLA artillery shelled the terrorists' positions and targets outside the security strip.

Israeli Overflights Reported

NC0712110792 Shumayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1080 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] At 0915 today, the Israeli occupation forces shelled the Jebal al-Dahr heights and the Mimis sector from artillery emplacements in Wadi Abu Qamhah. Some 12 shells have already fallen and the shelling is continuing intermittently.

A short time ago Israeli warplanes overflew western al-Biqa'. Earlier, Israeli aircraft overflew Sidon and the camps.

At dawn today the Islamic Resistance attacked a Lahd militia position at the Bayt Yahun triangle using rockets and automatic weapons.

The Islamic Resistance yesterday attacked a truck carrying eight Lahdist elements travelling between al-Shumariyah and 'Alman, killing or wounding all eight.

According to reports from the occupied border strip, a clash took place among Lahd militiamen using automatic weapons at the Tall Zaghlah position, north of Hasbayyah. Militiaman Yusuf Ghashsham was

wounded and his vehicle was burned. An Israeli force arrived at the scene, surrounded the position, and detained all the militiamen.

Israeli Patrol 'Hides' Arms

NC0712181992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] THE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that an Israeli occupation patrol abandoned towards Kafr Rummun Town's eastern hills at 1245 today, exiting the areas in its way. The exiting followed the detonation of an explosive charge on al-Dhaharah Road.

Israeli Patrol Said Killed

NC0812050992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Security sources have reported that a device exploded near an Israeli patrol on Dhaharah Road, killing or wounding all the patrol members. The enemy then shelled the areas of Qabrikha, Wadi al-Silaqi, and the outskirts of al-Sharmakh and brought reinforcements to the area.

The agent border militia's position at the western sector of the occupied border strip came under fire from machine guns and mortars. The enemy radio, which reported this, denied that any of the personnel manning the position was injured and added that the position remained fire.

Arab League Role Stressed in Somalia Operation

PM0812114492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Dec 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Damascus: U.S. Operation Exceeds Humanitarian Dimension"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Well-informed Syrian sources have said that Damascus still prefers that "the Arab League play a principal role in resolving the Somali issue, rather than leaving it to direct U.S. command under a UN cover." The sources went on: "Despite the need to provide urgent aid to the people of Somalia, the U.S. military operation has aims which exceed the humanitarian dimension and is aimed at serving U.S. strategy in the Middle East and Africa."

The sources pointed to the importance of "exerting Arab pressure on the United Nations to ensure that the (multinational) military operation remains within the framework of providing humanitarian aid, subjecting it to timetables to prevent its departure from the objectives specified for it." The sources pointed out that "Damascus stresses the need for the Arab League to contribute to achieving a comprehensive national reconciliation in Somalia and to safeguarding its unity and independence—which requires permanent coordination between the League and the United Nations to monitor the situation in that country."

Information Minister Interviewed on Peace Talks

NC0812003092 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1644 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Syrian Information Minister Dr. Mahmoud Salame has stressed that Syria will not give up one inch of the occupied Syrian (Golan) Heights and will not relinquish any Arab right. This was mentioned in an exclusive interview conducted with him by AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY's correspondent in Damascus. The following is the text of the interview:

[Correspondent] One year after the start of the Arab-Israeli talks and as the eighth round begins, what has Syria achieved, particularly in view of the fears expressed following Clinton's election to the White House?

[Salame] The talks started about a year ago but we are still at the beginning of the road. Undoubtedly, this is a big hurdle through which we are doing our best to restore Arab rights. But Israel remains at square one. We will participate in the eighth round to pursue the process within the framework of our charted goals, liberating the land, restoring rights, and establishing peace in the region based on the UN Security Council resolutions. As for fears about Clinton's upcoming power, there are several opinions about this. But let us wait and see the new U.S. Administration's position. We cannot comment on its policy before it assumes its responsibility, because experience has taught us to wait. There is a difference between the political attitudes of a candidate during an election campaign and his political attitudes when he becomes President. We hope the new Administration will not follow a policy of double standards in the region.

[Correspondent] Will Syria still boycott the multilateral talks—particularly the talks dealing with economic development—despite the participating states' agreement that there is a link between progress in the bilateral and progress in the multilateral?

[Salame] We will not participate in the multilateral talks before there is agreement on the basic principles of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Then we can discuss details. We do not want to jump to conclusions before we discuss the preliminaries. The basic preliminary that takes precedence over others is withdrawal. Unless withdrawal takes place, no other subjects can be discussed. How can Syria discuss regional problems, such as water, environment, and other issues while its land is occupied? We do not see any logic in the multilateral talks.

[Correspondent] Western and Israeli media still claim that Syria is obstructing the peace talks and that Syria must make concessions to achieve comprehensive peace. How do you react to this and what are the concessions that Syria must make?

[Salame] The Israeli side is trying to hide its actions by accusing others. Syria has no reason to obstruct the talks; we are the injured party whose land is occupied. Since 1948 the Israelis have been shooting, saying they want peace. We are offering them peace, but peace is not and must not be at the expense of others' land. What incentive do the Arabs have to work for peace if peace will give their land to Israel? There are half a million refugees from the Golan. How can we persuade them that we should give part of the Golan to Israel? We cannot give up one inch of land. A territorial compromise is not up for discussion; it is out of the question as far as we are concerned.

[Correspondent] If the peace talks produce an agreement between Syria and Israel, how would you see the new relations between Damascus and Tel Aviv? And if, for the sake of argument, the negotiations fail to find a solution and Israel does not implement the UN resolutions, would you have any proposed alternatives and options?

[Salame] We are committed to continuing the work to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which specify the means of peace, relations, and other issues. The talks are part of a comprehensive process to establish peace and achieve Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and regain the national rights of the Palestinian people.

But if the talks fail we must try to create all the circumstances that would enable us to regain our rights in land, whether the land is Syrian, Palestinian, or Jordanian.

Syria will make every effort on the Arab and international levels to create the necessary circumstances to regain our rights.

[Correspondent] There seems to be a misunderstanding between the PLO and Damascus, specifically after 'Arafat's statements in which he voiced fears of a possible conclusion of a separate agreement between Syria and Israel. Do you agree that relations between Syria and the PLO leadership can be described as up and down? And how do you describe the relations now?

[Sa'ezar] Relations between Damascus and the PLO are ordinary relations. We have a firm policy and a clear strategy based on achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We do not chart our policy on the basis of reactions from this or that side. We do chart our policy in light of our pan-Arab concept and national interests. Nobody can cast any doubt on Syria's position; it still shoulders the major burden in the Arab-Israeli struggle and has offered many sacrifices.

[Correspondent] Some people believe the water war is coming. It is no secret that relations between Turkey and Syria are fraught with some tension over this issue. How do you describe these relations now? And how does Syria view the Turkish military intervention against the Kurds?

[Sa'ezar] Turkey is a regional country. It is a neighboring state and we have a very long border. We have mutual and common interests and the two governments are keen to maintain a positive and constructive atmosphere. There is positive cooperation between the two countries. Problems might crop up every now and then in view of the long border and common interests between the two countries. All these problems are solved through exchanges between the two countries. Protracted negotiations are taking place over the problem of sharing the Euphrates River water between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. We reached a temporary agreement in 1987 and we hope to work out a final agreement to share the water between the three countries. As for events between Turkey and the Kurds, this is an internal issue that does not concern us.

Trade Minister Interviewed During Visit to Italy

PM0712164292 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 4 Dec 92 p11

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Trade Minister Muhammad Al-'Imadi by Talal Khrais; date and place not given]

[Text] The Syrian Government, without any doubt, has been extremely able in adapting to changing international conditions, from its rejection of so-called "real socialism" to its anti-Iraq stance during the Gulf war. This new conduct has had positive repercussions at international level and on relations with the rest of the Arab world.

Italy has offered Syria concrete aid in order to contribute to the economic recovery taking place: credit allowances and nonrepayable contributions (90 billion) [currency not stated] for the enhancement and restoration of its archeological heritage.

Italian involvement in Syria consists in financing projects from reconstruction of the electricity network to agriculture, from management training to archeological enhancement and restoration.

A seminar was organized by the Asia Institute on the future of economic relations between Italy and Syria, and Italian politicians and businessmen attended.

The Syrian delegation was received by parliament and by Foreign Minister Colombo. On the Syrian side, the seminar was attended by a delegation of experts led by the economy and foreign trade minister, Doctor Muhammad al-'Imadi. Al-'Imadi was a professor at Damascus University's faculty of economics and trade for many years. For 17 years he has been minister of the economy. AVANTI! interviewed him.

[Khrais] Mr. Minister, what is your judgment of this first visit to Italy after long years of political immobility between the West and Syria?

[al-'Imadi] I can say that this seminar has been a really positive event for a more profitable and intense relationship between Italy and Syria. The seminar was preceded by hard work: There have been fairly important visits, both by the honorable Giulio Andreotti (when he was foreign minister) and by the current foreign minister, Colombo. Meanwhile cooperation agreements have been reached. These will contribute to bilateral relations on a political level.

[Khrais] Are you also satisfied with the official meetings?

[al-'Imadi] Of course; everybody including the foreign minister has shown good will and understanding, recognizing the positive role played by our country in order to reach a just peace in the Middle East.

[Khrais] How can Syria's general economic orientation be summarized?

[al-'Imadi] Considerably increasing petroleum exports. This sector, thanks also to Italian participation in prospecting for and extracting crude oil, is becoming one of the pillars of the Syrian economy. We are working to accelerate agricultural production and we are investing huge resources in the tourist industry.

[Khrais] Mr. Minister, what do Italians know and what do they not know about Syria?

[al-'Imadi] The older generations know more. Possibly because of the Middle East conflict, today Syria's image is that of a country at war. For example they know little about its beauty. We have incomparable archeological areas with 10,000 years of history; Roman cities restored to their former glory, thanks also to Italian cooperation.

And they know little about the progress our country has made so far as the active role played by the private sector and the reforms introduced in its favor are concerned.

[Khrais] Mr. Minister, talking a little about the Middle East crisis, one wonders why the Arab countries continue to boycott the state of Israel. Would it not be timely right now to show clear signs on an economic level?

[al-'Imadi] You know that it will only be possible to end the boycott if peace comes. The Arab countries are boycotting Israel following a war. They are boycotting because Israel continues to deny the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and because the occupation of the Golan is continuing.

[Khrais] It is said that in order to establish this blessed peace between Arabs and Israelis a miracle must take place. In your view who must perform it?

[al-'Imadi] The Arabs accepted the invitation to take part in the peace negotiations and they accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. For over a year the Israeli delegation has been indecisive, wriggling. It has not said one word so far on applying the UN resolutions, i.e. on withdrawing from the occupied territories. It is only seeking partial solutions. We want peace because we are convinced that our country's progress will be difficult if it does not come. Syrian military defense absorbs enormous resources which could otherwise solve many of the problems connected with development. Peace for us means improving our people's living standards and solving water supply and environmental problems. In my view, it is about time the Israeli side performed a miracle.

Press Says Israeli Stand Precludes Talks Progress

JN0812113492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH writes: On the eve of the eighth round of the Washington talks, Israeli delegates stated that they had no new ideas. This not only raises doubts about any progress being made during this round, but leaves one certain that no headway is possible. Rabin's statements have been typical of Israel's known line since the peace process was launched in Madrid, and that is consistent refusal to abide by the principles on which it is based, namely the land-for-peace formula.

AL-BA'TH editorial continues: The Middle East peace process never set out to attain halfway solutions, since it was inspired by international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions. By ignoring the meaning of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, Israeli leaders are deliberately shirking a commitment to total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and chasing halfway and incomplete solutions.

Rabin's fallacies are designed to mislead European public opinion. Just as we reject halfway solutions and fait accomplis, we reject for the label of terrorists to be attached to people fighting for their rights; they will pursue their struggle as long as the occupation continues, and Israel continues to chase halfway solutions that can hardly produce a just solution or just peace.

The same topic is taken up by AL-THAWRAH newspaper in the "Issues" column: Under the headline "the Transparent Game", AL-THAWRAH writes: The eighth round of the Washington peace talks got underway in Washington. It may be too early to tell how this round will turn out; yet the indications are—including observers' prognoses—that this round will not fare any better than its predecessors. By sticking to the practice of dealing with each Arab delegation independently of the others and pursuing piecemeal deals, Israel is thus leading the entire peace process down a dead-end street.

Vice President Criticizes Human Rights Reports

JN0512125292 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah: "Human Rights Between Ethical Values and Political Ends"]

[Text] Every now and then, certain Western media organs carry reports issued by official or semiofficial quarters evaluating the positions of many countries in the world with regard to human rights.

These quarters deem themselves arbiters. In addition to their evaluation, they issue judgments and classify certain countries according to their compliance with this or that human right, and their abidance by the provisions of international legitimacy on human rights included in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, issued by the UN General Assembly on 10 May 1948.

They even deem themselves judge and jury at the same time. They issue judgments that lack not only objectivity and integrity, but which are also motivated by the political orientation of the state which steers this or that institution vis-a-vis the involved countries.

Although the law on human rights is full of rights which a human being should indeed enjoy, these quarters only dwell on one of these rights—that is, the one which deals with political freedom—as if they are not interested in the other human rights. Plus, when these institutions address this right, they address it from their own perspective, in a manner that promotes their economic purposes and interests. They want others to honor their view.

These quarters fail to address the human rights situation in their own countries. There might be gross human rights violations in their own countries, the most basic manifestation being racial discrimination. These quarters—whether official or semiofficial—are not free in

their selection or judgment; they are oriented by the authorities which control them or by the security organs which established them and which finance, supervise, and direct them to serve their own purposes. These quarters do not speak about human rights as manifestations of either ethical or legal values. Indeed, they are motivated by political purposes determined by how they view targeted countries and their relations with those states. Hence, they lose their objectivity and neutrality. In brief, addressing the issue of human rights falls within the framework of defined political stands to achieve specific political ends and to put pressure on this or that country, and is not derived from any ethical motives.

By doing this, these quarters are turning concepts upside down and bypassing facts. Hence, national struggle is deemed violence and resistance of aggression and occupation is deemed terrorism. The best example proving that the talk of these institutions about human rights has nothing to do with ethical values but is aimed at achieving specific political purposes, is that Western media do not speak at all about Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. These media organs propagate the image of Israel an oasis of democracy in the Middle East, overlooking all human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

They have chosen to remain completely silent over the crimes committed by Israel against Arabs. These quarters, which boast about human rights, do not speak about the crimes of killing and genocide perpetrated by Israel. They do not speak about the thousands of Arabs sent to jails and detention camps for long periods of time, or their miserable living condition under the pretext of resisting occupation and confronting authority. They do not speak about the brutal torture of detainees and prisoners, which is unprecedented even by standards set by the Nazi beast during World War II. They do not speak about the unprecedented cruel breaking of bones of stone-throwing children, the heroes of the intifadah; the demolishing of homes and evicting of people into the streets; and the sealing of houses. They do not speak about these things which were not even seen under the Nazis or fascists. They do not speak about the expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their homeland; the strangling economic blockade imposed on Arab citizens of the West Bank and Gaza; the restricting of free movement; and other bestial and racist practices, the likes of which the civilized world has never seen.

All this, and many other criminal practices, terrorist acts, and repressive measures practiced by Israel against Arab citizens in the occupied territory, are ignored by the same quarters which claim to be concerned with human rights because they actually believe that the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine is an oasis of democracy. Some even go so far in their delusions as to consider the Arab boycott of Israel an immoral act. They do not believe that the occupation of Arab territory, the displacement of its people, and their brutal treatment are immoral acts that are contrary to the basic human rights endorsed by international law.

This is the fact which exposes the falsehood, lies, and allegations of these quarters. This shows that the motive behind what is being reported by Western media, every now and then, is not drawn from a concern for the ethical value of human rights, but is directly rooted in political objectives. The objective is to put pressure on those countries whose policies are governed by national or pan-Arab interests which do not fall in harmony with the purposes of those forces with influence in this or that part of the world.

Afghanistan

Iranian, Turkish Embassies Hit by Rockets

LD0812103492 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 8, IRNA—Several rockets hit Iranian and Turkish embassy buildings here at 09:40 hours local time Tuesday [8 December] following the escalation of fighting between the rival groups in the capital. No one was injured in the attack on the Iranian embassy.

Heavy fire exchanges and street fighting continued in Kabul during the morning hours today. The sound of machine gun and artillery fire did not stop for the whole morning. Only military and armoured vehicles could be seen moving in the streets of the capital. There is no safe passage for residents through the streets. The fighting broke out yesterday afternoon after the Supervisory Council forces, under the control of Afghan Defence Ministry, opened fire on the positions of the forces of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity Party) and on the residential quarters in west and north of Kabul. The fire exchanges highly escalated at dawn.

The forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami are targeting artillery positions and the rocket-launching pads of the supervisory forces in central parts of the city turning the capital into a scene of fierce fighting.

Hezb-e Wahdat Makes Gains in Intensive Fighting

LD0712123192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent reports that intensive fighting between forces of the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat] and the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] headed by [Defense Minister] Mas'ud—both part of the Kabul government coalition—has continued for the third day running. Although both sides claim to have the upper hand, our correspondent cites reports from the sides involved in the fighting that the Unity Party forces are moving forward from three different directions. They have captured strategic centers such as Dehmazang, Dar ol-Aman, Shahrara, Timony, Karta-e Parwan, and the hill of Asmay mountain. This report adds that as a result of the fighting more than 50 people were killed and 400 others injured. It has been said that the people of Kabul are suffering greatly as a result of this fighting and have escaped to safe places. A missile hit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others hit the embassies of foreign countries.

On the other hand, Rabbani, head of coalition government, has asked the sides involved to end the fighting. However, neither side paid any attention to his request and they continue the fighting.

Also, quoting a reliable source it has been said that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the coalition government, disappeared after the outbreak of this fighting. The general belief is that he has left Kabul city.

Foreign Ministry Protests Ayodhya Incident

LD0712170092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Ensemmed Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this morning with the charge d'affaires of the Indian Embassy in Kabul and handed over to him, in the form of an official note, a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya city, Uttar Pradesh. The statement reads as follows:

Based on their historical relations and deep religious ties, the Muslim people of Afghanistan and India strongly condemn the illegal destruction of the ancient mosque of the Indian Muslims, that is, the Babri mosque in Ayodhya city, Uttar Pradesh, by a group of extremist Hindus; and they consider this to be an act of disrespect and prejudice showing hostility to the holy places and the religious beliefs of all the Muslims of India and the whole world.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, while welcoming the positive stance taken by the Indian central government and the Supreme Court on a just solution of the issue, expresses the deep aversion of the government of Afghanistan and the Muslim people to this inhuman action. It declares the solidarity and sympathy of the Muslim people of Afghanistan with the Muslim people of India. It also requests that the Government of the Republic of India prosecute those responsible for this heartbreaking incident and take urgent and immediate actions for the reconstruction of the mosque, the prayer place of the Muslim people of India.

Three Hindu Temples Burned by Muslims

BK0712005492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1941 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 7 (AFP)—Three Hindu temples were burnt Monday [7 December] in Afghanistan by Muslims protesting against the desecration of the historic Babri Mosque in India, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The report, quoting information reaching the northwestern city of Peshawar from across the border, said one temple was set ablaze at Jalalabad in the eastern Nangarhar Province.

Two others were burnt at Khowst and Gardeyz in the neighbouring Paktia Province, APP said, adding that angry mobs warned they would expel Hindus from Afghanistan if the Babri Mosque was not rebuilt by the Indian Government.

Hekmatyar Says Coming Days 'Fateful' for Country

LD0612183592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami Party, has described the coming days as crucial and fateful for that country. He said that it is inevitable that grave events will occur.

Interviewed by an Iran Television correspondent, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami, considered the convening on time of the Hal wa Aqd Council [constitutional assembly] to be impossible. Declaring his opposition to the procedure for selecting members of the Hal wa Aqd Council, he said: The method of selecting the members is contrary to the approvals regarding the formation of the council. Saying that decisions of the commission for convening the Hal wa Aqd Council were first approved by the Leadership Council, Hekmatyar claimed that groups dispatched by the central government have violated those decisions.

These statements by the leader of Hezb-e Eslami come at a time when Nurullah Emad, official in charge of convening the Hal wa Aqd Council, said in an interview broadcast by Kabul television two days ago that 80 percent of the Hal wa Aqd members have been selected.

In his interview, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar also emphasized that the premier should come from his party. Expressing interest in a coalition between Hezb-e Eslami and other parties, especially forces from the north, he said that such a coalition is possible. Hekmatyar added: Relations between Hezb-e Vahdat and Hezb-e Eslami always have been good and we hope that they will continue to be so.

The Hezb-e Eslami leader condemned ethnic, religious, and racial disputes in Afghanistan, and added: Any move that will serve to create conflict among the Muslim Afghan people is against the ideals of the 14-year-old jihad of the Afghan people.

Continuing, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar elaborated on relations between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We would like a new chapter to begin in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Muslim nations' power is a source of hope and pride for world Muslims. That is why we seek all-round ties between the two Islamic states of Iran and Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Fundamentalists, Anti-Fundamentalists Fighting

BK0812102692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 8 (AFP)—Police used tear gas and rubber bullets against rival activists here Tuesday [8 December] during a crippling general strike in Bangladesh called to protest the demolition of a mosque in northern India, witnesses said.

At least 15 people were rushed to a government hospital after sporadic violence in a downtown district between Muslim fundamentalists and anti-fundamentalist activists, police said.

Police used baton charges and tear gas to disperse fighting rival strikers, the witnesses and doctors said, adding that nine people were in serious condition with rubber bullet and splinter wounds.

In some of old Dhaka's Hindu districts, police Tuesday also foiled attacks by angry Muslim protesters on Hindu temples, police said, adding that security in the districts had been tightened further.

Similar stray violence was also reported from other Bangladesh cities including Chittagong on Tuesday during the stoppage.

Witnesses said some 20 people were wounded in fighting between pro- and anti-fundamentalist activists in the port city's crowded municipal office area.

Police and paramilitary troops in Dhaka earlier patrolled deserted streets while shops and schools remained shut in response to the dawn-to-dusk stoppage called by fundamentalist Jamaat-e- Islami party and its allies to protest the demolition by Hindu extremists of a mosque in Ayodhya, northern India.

A rival strike call came from an anti-fundamentalist group that is campaigning for the trial of a fundamentalist leader it accuses of war crimes during Bangladesh's 1971 independence war against Pakistan. The group later said its call was also to protest Ayodhya incident.

Earlier reports said small bands of stick-wielding activists from both groups held street demonstrations in the capital, but there were no reports of serious violence.

Several hundred paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) frontier troops joined thousands of police patrolling streets in the capital Monday during the day-long anti-Indian protests in which some 100 people were injured.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia condemned the mosque's destruction but urged Bangladeshis, who are predominantly Muslim, to restrain their anger.

Many newspapers here meanwhile carried front-page editorials expressing anger and anguish at the turn of events in India and said New Delhi's commitment to secularism had suffered a shattering blow with the razing of the ancient mosque.

"But we also have a plan for our people and the government...to maintain total communal harmony in Bangladesh," where Hindus constitute 12 percent of the 110 million population, wrote THE DAILY STAR.

"We hope the natural frenzy in Bangladesh over the sacrilege in Ayodhya will subside soon as it did in the past. The fallout of Ayodhya in Bangladesh is a warning to the chauvinists in India that the Indian Muslims are not alone in their struggle for upholding their rights," commented THE TELEGRAPH.

At Least 500 Injured in Protest Violence

BK0812130292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Dec 8 (AFP)—At least 500 people were reported injured Tuesday [8 December] as police fought running battles with pro- and anti-fundamentalist groups amid a nationwide general strike to protest the destruction of a mosque in India.

At least 400 people were injured in southeastern Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts, where Muslim fundamentalist groups are strong, residents said.

In Cox's Bazar, eight Hindu temples were burned overnight and Tuesday, six of them on Kutubdia island in the Bay of Bengal, one local reporter said by telephone, adding that clashes between police and pro- and anti-fundamentalist groups were reported from several areas.

In different parts of Dhaka a total of 45 people were hurt, some seriously, as police fired rubber bullets and teargas and staged baton charges to disperse fighting groups, witnesses and doctors said.

In some Hindu districts of the capital, several attempts to attack Hindu temples by angry Muslim protesters were foiled, leaving several people hurt, police said, adding that security in such districts had been further tightened.

One small temple was damaged, witnesses said.

By evening, when the dusk to dawn strike ended, the streets were deserted, but still patrolled by police and paramilitary troops. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Meeting Condemns Ayodhya Incident

BK0712132792 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] A special meeting of the cabinet with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair in Dhaka today categorically and strongly condemned the destruction of the Babri Mosque and the people involved in the incident. The meeting, held to review the situation arising out of the destruction of the mosque in Ayodhya, India, expressed the view that demolition of the more than 400-year-old historic mosque and construction of a temple there is a disgraceful event unprecedented in the history of civilization. The cabinet deeply felt that the Indian Government is left with only one option in order to establish discipline, peace, and stability: to reconstruct the mosque at its original site by taking immediate steps to restore it. Responding to the sentiments of Muslims throughout the world, the cabinet called upon the people of Bangladesh to uphold Islam's inherent ideal of tolerance in the greater interests of Indian Muslims. The cabinet directed all concerned to take necessary steps to ensure law and order and to avoid violence and maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the country.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, the minister of state for environment, forest, and fishery, and general secretary of the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal [youth wing of ruling party], has expressed deep grief over the damage caused to the Babri Mosque in India's Ayodhya by militant Hindus. In a statement, he said that such an incident is unexpected in a democratic and secular country like India.

India

Army Put on Alert To Retake Mosque Site

BK0712160092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 7 Dec 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 7 (AFP)—The Indian army was put on a short alert Monday night to enter this pilgrimage city where Hindus have started building a wall around a shrine they have erected on the ruins of a fallen mosque.

Senior army officers told AFP that troops had been alerted to move into Ayodhya within 30 minutes of being ordered to start an operation to push out an estimated 15,000 Hindu militants still assembled on the site.

"So far we have been giving logistic support to the paramilitary forces here. Now we are on the standby mode," said a senior operational officer brought here after the mosque's demolition by thousands of Hindu zealots on Sunday.

Units of the legendary Gurkhas have been alerted and in case the army is deployed, the soldiers known for their combat prowess would be sent in as stormtroopers, army sources said.

Helicopters flew over the site Monday afternoon in reconnaissance missions as thousands of Hindus occupied the mosque site in the riverside town, which was covered by a thick pall of dust, witnesses said.

Thousands of Hindus who were here to witness a symbolic temple construction that turned into a full-fledged demolition job meanwhile began heading out of Ayodhya, witnesses said.

Sources said troopers may crack down as soon as the crowd thins further. Some 200,000 Hindus had gathered here by official count for Sunday's ceremony.

"We just hope the Hindu volunteers will disperse quietly and peacefully," said a town administrator, an Hindu

militant announcements on loudspeakers cajoled the faithful not to leave without seeing the temple.

Troopers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) stood by without enforcing a curfew as work on a temple continued, saying they feared such action could "trigger resentment and violence."

"We are not there to stop them from building the temple, our task is only to prevent rioting," said a senior officer who is also a Hindu.

Hindus were erecting a cement wall around the disputed site after laying a concrete platform and were offering prayers to their Lord Rama, the warrior-king hero of the epic Ramayana whom they worship as a god incarnate. Hindus believe the mosque they tore down marks the birthplace of Rama and that it was built by the Mughals after a Rama temple there was razed.

Hindus have also raised a staircase leading to the temple, erected wooden poles and planted saffron-colour flags all over the area. Saffron is the colour of the Hindu religion.

Work on enlarging the temple was in full swing, said Ram Shankar Agnihotri of the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) [World Hindu Council], who warned the government against attempting to dislodge Hindu militants from the site. That would lead to a "horrible situation," he said.

"Rama cannot be removed and any such step could lead to horrible consequences," Agnihotri said.

VHP leader Ashok Singhal in a statement meanwhile blamed Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao for the attack on the mosque, saying the government's policies of "appeasing" Muslims had led Hindus to turn aggressive.

Scores of houses and stores continued to burn after being set on fire overnight by the Hindus who tore down the mosque. Muslim residents, including 130 women and children who hid inside a house without food and water for a day, were taking shelter in police stations.

Hospital officials said a total of 400 Hindu temple-builders were injured while tearing down the mosque, adding that five people had died during the demolition and in the Hindu-Muslim riots that erupted afterwards.

Forces 'Take Full Control'

BK0812005992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In a swift and surprise action, the central security forces moved to take full control of Ayodhya town, including the disputed area early this morning. There was no firing and there was no reports of any casualties so far. The forces used mild lathi [baton] charge and burst teargas shells to disperse thousands of kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers]. Initially, the kar sevaks resorted to stone throwing, but later began moving out of the disputed area in several thousands. The structure which was being built and the idols placed inside are safe and intact.

Nationwide Unrest Reported; Further on Casualties

Radio Updates Situation

BK0712161792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation is reported tense following violent incidents in some parts of the state. An official spokesman told the AIR [All-India Radio] Lucknow correspondent that 24 persons were killed in police firing and clashes in different districts. Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew imposed in 18 districts is being strictly enforced.

In Madhya Pradesh, 12 persons died in different cities in violent incidents since last night. The Army has been called out in Bhopal to help the civil administration in restoring peace. The chief secretary told newsmen in Bhopal that an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the entire old city of Bhopal and Ujjain and in six police station areas in Jabalpore.

An indefinite curfew has been clamped in Ranchi and Giridi towns of Bihar.

In Andhra Pradesh, six people were killed in different incidents of stabbing and police firing. The Hyderabad city police commissioner told the AIR correspondent that 37 people, including seven policemen, were injured in the violent incidents. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in 30 police station areas in the city. The curfew has also been imposed in Guntur, Mangalgiri, and (Narsaraopet). The law and order situation in the state is continuously being monitored. In a statement, the chief minister, Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, said the time has come to ban all communal parties and organisations.

In Gujarat, 27 people were killed and about 100 injured in various incidents of stone throwing, stabbing, and police firing following yesterday's incidents in Ayodhya. The state government is making all efforts to maintain law and order. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in seven police station areas of Ahmedabad this morning. Some parts of the Kagzipet police station area have also been placed under indefinite curfew.

In Maharashtra, six persons were killed in police firing and three in stabbing cases today in Marathwada region. A curfew has been imposed in parts of Aurangabad city and in Nanded, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Latoor, Gid, and (Bigalore) towns.

In West Bengal, all the 35 police station areas of Calcutta city and 10 police stations in Howrah town have been placed under curfew following sporadic incidents of violence. The Army has been deployed in Calcutta, Howrah, and in some part of South 24 Parganas District.

Briefing newsmen, the state information minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharyya, said newsmen this evening that the Army has been asked to stand by in Barrackpore subdivision of North 24 Parganas District and Asansol in Burdwan District. He said four deaths have been reported so far in different incidents of clashes and police firing. Seventy people have been arrested. He said 12 columns of the Army are staging flag marches in the city. He said that overall situation is tense, but under control. He said in view of tomorrow's call for bandh [strike] given by the Left parties and Janata Party, the chief minister has appealed to the people to remain peaceful.

20 Killed in Karnataka

BK0812011892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In Karnataka 20 persons have been killed at several places in violent incidents on Sunday. The chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, disclosed this after an emergency meeting of the state cabinet in Bangalore. He said indefinite curfew has been imposed in Hubli, Bidar, Gulbarga, and other parts of Bangalore City and Army has been deployed in these places to assist the police. Mr. Moily has welcomed the Center's decision to ban communal organizations and rebuild the mosque at Ayodhya.

The Delhi Administration has decided to close all the schools of the union territory today. The decision has been taken in view of the bandh [strike] call given by certain political parties.

Situation Reported 'Quiet'

BK0812042892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Reports reaching Delhi say that the situation in different states was quiet last night, except for stray incidents in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal.

An official spokesman told our correspondent this morning that some incidents of stabbing and arson were reported from Bareli and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Surat and Ahmadabad in Gujarat. In Calcutta, some shops were set on fire. In Gujarat, the death toll in violent incidents has gone up to 51. Official sources said in Ahmadabad that the situation is tense. Indefinite curfew remains in force in several areas of Ahmadabad, Wadodra, Surat, and Broach. In West Bengal, curfew is continuing in all the police station areas of Calcutta and Howrah, and in Methin Broach in South 24 Parganas, and in some parts of Asansol.

In Bihar, indefinite curfew has been clamped in Darbhanga town following violence. The state home secretary told our Patna correspondent no untoward incident has been reported from curfew- bound towns of Patna, Ranchi, Giridi, Jamshedpur, and Lohardaga.

In Karnataka, at least 23 people have been killed in violent incidents since Sunday. Indefinite night curfew has been clamped in parts of Bangalore City, Hubli, Bidar, and Gulbarga.

In Andhra Pradesh, the overall situation is under control.

In Kerala, police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob in Alapuzha last night.

In Madhya Pradesh, the situation in all the nine curfew-bound cities is under control. The indefinite curfew clamped in old Bhopal has now been extended to the entire city.

'Tense' Situation 'Under Control'

BK0812101092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya is tense, but under control. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the city. The central security forces have taken control of the disputed complex. All India Radio correspondent Ramji Tripathi after going around the disputed area reports that all the kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction] have moved out of the complex. They are leaving Ayodhya and Faizabad in large numbers by special trains and buses arranged for them. Elsewhere in the state, the situation in the 22 curfew-bound cities and towns is tense. Curfew was imposed on Rampur, Mau, and Azamgar districts last night. Stray incidents of violence were reported from Allahabad, Moradabad, Bulandshahr, Bareli, and Fatehpur. Over 600 arrests have been made in the curfew-bound cities; 35 persons lost their lives in various incidents. Meanwhile, the state governor, Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy, has made fervent appeals to the people of the state to maintain peace and communal harmony.

As reported earlier, the central security forces in a swift move early this morning took control of the entire Ayodhya town, including the acquired land and the disputed site. There was no firing and also no casualty. The forces made mild lathi [baton] charge and burst tear gas shells to disperse the remaining kar sevaks from the area. According to an official spokesman, the decision has been taken after reviewing the situation in Ayodhya after the imposition of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh. He said the government will see to it that the demolished structure in Ayodhya is rebuilt and take appropriate steps for the construction of a new Ram temple after Friday [11 December] when the Allahabad High Court judgment is expected. It may be recalled that the center has announced its decision to ban all communal organizations.

In Bihar, the Army has been alerted following bomb explosions in some areas of the curfew-bound Ranchi town this morning. Deputy commissioner told our

Ranchi correspondent that all the educational institutions have been closed till tomorrow. Army is staging flag march in several areas of the town. However, PTI quoting the state home secretary reports that two persons died in the current spell of violence in the state.

In Madhya Pradesh, nine cities continue to be under indefinite curfew. The situation is reported to be tense, but under control. Our Bhopal correspondent quoting police sources reports that the death toll in the state since yesterday's violence has now gone up to 24. So far, over 350 persons have been arrested including an independent MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. R.S. Agil.

In Gujarat, curfew has been imposed in Ahmedabad, Petlad, Surat, Baroda, Broach, Anand, Mahesana, Sabarkantha, Ankleshwar, Jamgadh, and Palanpur. The Army carried out flag march in the disturbed areas of Ahmedabad. A report from Baroda says the city remained peaceful since last evening following imposition of curfew. The Army staged flag march in the city this morning as a precautionary measure.

In Karnataka, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Bangalore city, Hubli, Gulbarga, and Bidar continues to be tense but under control. With four more persons succumbing to injuries in Bangalore late last night, the death toll in the current violence rose to 24.

In Andhra Pradesh, the law and order situation in all the curfew- bound areas, including the old city of Hyderabad, is by and large under control. According to the state director general of police, the death toll in yesterday's violence in police firing has risen to 11. Our Hyderabad correspondent who visited the curfew-bound areas in the old city of Hyderabad reports that police patrolling has been intensified and the Army has been asked to stand by. Border security forces have already been deployed in sensitive areas.

In Punjab, the indefinite curfew imposed in Malerkotla town of Sangrur district is still continuing as a precautionary measure. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the situation in the whole state is peaceful and well under control.

The minister of state for civil aviation, Mr. M.O.H. Farooq, has appealed to all Muslims to remain calm and restrain themselves. In a statement in New Delhi, he said this is the time for all secular forces to combine and defeat the evil designs of communal elements.

Death Toll Rises in Bombay

BK0812125092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In Maharashtra, the death toll in violence in Bombay has risen to 70 with reports of 26 more deaths today. According to police sources, the toll in other parts of the state has gone up to 25. Ten localities in Bombay have been brought under curfew.

President's Rule Imposed; Government Takes Action

Communal Parties To Be Banned

BK0712152092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1510 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Following the imposition of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh in response to yesterday's incidents at Ayodhya, the central government has made some significant decisions. According to these decisions, communal organizations will be banned, and those who have committed crimes will be tracked down and stern action will be taken against those who brought down the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Mosque structure and against those who incited such acts. Disciplinary action will be taken against those charged with dereliction of duty and, if necessary, they will be brought to trial. The government will also see that demolished portions of the mosque are restored. The decision regarding the construction of a new temple of Lord Rama will be made after 11 December.

BJP, VHP Leaders Arrested

BK0812090492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, and the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] general secretary, Mr. Ashok Singhal, were taken into custody in Delhi this morning. According to the assistant commissioner of police, New Delhi Range, the Uttar Pradesh police held them with the help of the Delhi police. Agency reports say all three were held under Section 153 A and B of the Indian Penal Code for creating communal disharmony.

The BJP says that Mr. L.K. Advani will continue as the leader of its parliamentary party as well as the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha. According to a party leader, the BJP parliamentary party reaffirmed its faith in Mr. Advani's leadership and rejected his resignation at its meeting in New Delhi today.

Rao Pledges To Rebuild Mosque

BK0812125492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] A commission of inquiry will be set up to go into the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. This was indicated by Mr. Narasimha Rao while addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in New Delhi today. He also hinted prosecution of Mr. Kalyan Singh, who had resigned as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh following the incidents. Mr. Narasimha Rao declared his government's determination to take very strong, but very difficult decisions to uphold the Constitution and maintain law and order and communal harmony.

The Uttar Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr. Mahavir Prasad, and the union minister of state for union, Mr. Balramsingh Yadav, have expressed confidence that the steps being taken by the prime minister will reinforce the secular credentials of the country. In a joint statement in New Delhi today, they said that Mr. Narasimha Rao's pledge to rebuild the Babri Mosque and construct the Ram temple in Ayodhya will strengthen the unity and integrity of the country.

National Front, Left Said To Support Government

BK0813035292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0345 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The National Front and the Left parties say they will support any motion moved by the speaker in the Lok Sabha today on the Ayodhya incidents. This was stated by the Janata Dal General Secretary Mr. Harikishore Singh in New Delhi last night. Uproarious scenes over Ayodhya in both houses of parliament led to their adjournment without transacting any business yesterday.

Congress-I on 'Full Solidarity'

BK0812091392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I] met in New Delhi this morning and unanimously reaffirmed full solidarity with Mr. Narasimha Rao. Almost all the party MP's attended the meeting and fully supported the prime minister in dealing with the Ayodhya issue and later developments. The CPP-I also endorsed the resolution adopted by the party executive unreservedly, backing the government in dealing with the situation.

Opposition MPs Disrupt Parliament Proceedings

BK0712162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Parliament could not transact any business today as both houses were rocked by the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya by the unruly kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction]. The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice earlier in the day and the Rajya Sabha once amidst a bedlam. Several opposition members in both houses demanded a ban on the BJP, VHP, and RSS [Bharatiya Janata Party, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and the resignation of the government. There was also a demand for the arrest of Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

In the Lok Sabha, the prime minister was present and wanted to make a statement, and in the Rajya Sabha, the chairman announced the government's readiness to do so. Enraged non-BJP opposition members did not allow the proceedings to go on and went on raising slogans.

In the Lok Sabha, as soon as the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, entered the house this morning, several members belonging to the National Front, left parties, Muslim League, MIM [Majlis Ittehadul Muslemeen], Assam Dal-A, and Kerala Congress-Mani group rushed to the podium. They raised slogans against the BJP and the government. Much of what they said was not audible in the din and the speaker adjourned the house till 1400. When they reassembled, non-BJP opposition members continued slogan shouting from the well of the house. Several Congress-I members also moved into the well blaming the BJP for the happenings in Ayodhya. Pandemonium continued for nearly 35 minutes. Raising his voice, Mr. Shivraj Patil said if the house condemns the happenings in one voice it will have great significance both within and outside the country. Opposition members were however not prepared to listen to the speaker or the prime minister. The house was adjourned for the second time till 1630. The bedlam continued when the house met again and the speaker finally adjourned it for the day.

The situation was no better in the Rajya Sabha where the chairman, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, said the entire nation condemns what has happened in Ayodhya and made repeated pleas to agitated members to maintain order. His plea that he was ready to suspend the question hour and take up discussion on Ayodhya went unheeded. He adjourned the house till 1430 initially. When uproarious scenes continued even after the house reassembled, the chairman adjourned it for the day.

Spokesman Says Ayodhya 'Internal Matter'

BK0812045092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] There are reports of some disturbances in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and the United Kingdom following the Ayodhya incidents. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that the happenings in Ayodhya are an internal matter and the government is fully committed to its constitutional obligation. A state department spokesman in Washington said the Ayodhya issue is India's internal problem and expressed the hope that other countries will not interfere.

Strike Called by Congress-I, Left Parties

BK0812035492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The National Front and Left-wing parties have jointly given a call for a countrywide bandh [strike] today in protest against the happenings in Ayodhya. The Congress-I has also called for a Bharat [nationwide] bandh today. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi late last night that the party has called the bandh to protest against the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya by unruly kar sevaks.

'Partial Response' to Strike

BK0812092292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Today's countrywide bandh [strike] called by the National Front-left parties combine and supported by

the Congress-I has evoked partial response. It has, however, affected normal life in Bombay City, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, and Kerala. There has been no report of any violence from anywhere so far. In West Bengal, life continued to be paralyzed all over the state for the second day today following yesterday's bandh called by the ruling left front and today's Bharat bandh [countrywide general strike].

British Parliamentarians Caught in Ayodhya Unrest

LD0712111692 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1051 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] A British parliamentary delegation to India was attacked today by rioting Hindus as violence swept the country after the destruction of a mosque. The MPs—including Labour front bench environment spokesman Jack Straw and Nottinghamshire Tory Jim Lester—were caught up in the unrest prompted by the razing of the mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya by militant Hindus.

Mr. Straw, speaking in Bombay where he and his colleagues are staying told the Lancashire EVENING TELEGRAPH: "The situation now is very grave. There are riots going on in the Hindu area of the city." Mr. Straw, deputy leader of the all-party delegation, added: "We had to drive through that area from the airport and we were given a police escort because the roads are all closed.

"A large stone was thrown at our car, but thankfully it was bullet-proof and no one was hurt." Mr. Straw said: "There's very great anxiety in the Muslim community but they have, so far at least, shown remarkable restraint." The MPs have already met the Indian president and prime minister and are due to have talks with Pakistani leaders tomorrow.

At least 39 people were reported killed in violence across the country and Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East and secretary of the 150-strong Indo-British parliamentary group, condemned the "wanton destruction of the mosque in Ayodhya". He added that it should "not be used as an excuse to destabilize the government of (prime minister) P. V. Narasimha Rao."

Mr. Vaz, who has just returned from a ten-day visit to India, said he had raised the issue of mounting tension in the country before the mosque was attacked. But Mr. Rao felt that to send in troops in advance would have prompted even more violence. "What is required in India is a period of calm to enable all political leaders to work together," the MP added. [passage omitted]

Iran

More on Criticism of Destruction of Indian Mosque

Yazdi Urges Punishment

LD0812002292 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran Dec. 7 IRNA—Head of Iran's judiciary branch Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here Monday criticized the United Nations General Assembly for its distorted report on the status of human rights in Iran which, he said, amounted to "some sort of interference in the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic."

He said in the viewpoint of the United Nations certain canons of Islam seem to be against the international standards. However, he made it clear that [words indistinct] on which the Islamic Republic system is based were "unalterable".

The ayatollah said the various sorts of punishments administered on drug traffickers were consistent with the Islamic punitive laws and commented that other punishments against the various categories of offenders, too, were "directly relevant to the rights of the people and to their judicial security".

Commenting on the demolishing of the historic Babri mosque in [words indistinct] hordes of chauvinist Hindus. He said the action was against the rights of the minorities in that country.

The judiciary chief called for the punishment of those responsible for the destruction of the Muslim place of worship.

Cabinet Message

NC0812094092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The cabinet has strongly condemned the attack on Babari Mosque by bigoted extremist Hindus. The cabinet sent a message to the Indian Government requesting that it severely punish the perpetrators of this catastrophe, liberate this hallowed Islamic site from occupation by the attackers, and reconstruct it.

In the message, it was stressed that the world of Islam cannot remain indifferent to the fate of Islam and Muslims in India. Without any doubt, swift measures by the Indian Government to liberate this site and prevent the proliferation of this discord-generating plot will compensate for this regrettable incident to a certain extent.

To express hatred and condemnation over the destruction of Babari Mosque, the Muslim students of Tehran University will stage a protest march today. It will start at 1300 [0930 GMT] at the university and proceed toward the Indian Embassy. The students have asked

various sections of people to participate in this march to express their solidarity with the Indian Muslims.

Grand Ayatollah Issues Condemnation

NC0812074892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani issued a message describing the attack on Babri Mosque and its destruction by extremist Hindus as an act of savagery, disregard for law and order, and an affront to all of civilized society.

In this message, he said: This incident will be a black page in history, which the world's people will remember forever as a symbol of intense and ignorant prejudice and a lack of respect for human values. They will condemn these beliefs and ideologies, the ignorant followers of which destroy sites of culture and civilization and the center for the worship of the one and only God with such bigotry.

His eminence elaborated: This outrage to 1 billion Muslims cannot be compensated except through returning things to normal, immediately repairing and reconstructing the mosque, apologizing to all Muslims, and punishing those behind these atrocities.

To express extreme abhorrence for this action and solidarity with the Muslims of the world, the seminaries will be closed tomorrow.

Indian Government Reply

LD0812112292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] After summoning the Indian ambassador to the Foreign Ministry, a reply from the Indian Government on the measures undertaken in the wake of destruction of the Babri Mosque was submitted to our country's Foreign Ministry. The reply of the Indian Government stressed, in part, that the Indian sects and extremist groups have been banned from engaging in activities. The message added: The state authorities in India have launched extensive efforts to arrest and punish the main agents responsible for the action. The message also stressed that the Indian Government has decided to rebuild the Babri mosque and has put the task on its agenda.

Pakistan

Nationwide Protest Lodged Over Mosque Desecration

BK0812034292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The people of Pakistan are lodging a nationwide protest today to express their deep sorrow and anguish over the desecration and martyrdom of the Babri Mosque and the massive human rights violations in India. All the federal and provincial government offices, autonomous and semi-autonomous organizations, and commercial and educational institutions are lodging the protest through peaceful rallies. Special prayers are being offered for the protection and security of the Muslims in India.

The government has decided to raise the tragic event of the desecration and martyrdom of the Babri Mosque at the next sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate. This was stated by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chaudhary Amir Hussain while speaking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday.

ICO To Meet on Ayodhya Mosque Issue 8 Dec

BK0812083092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has convened an emergency meeting of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] member states to discuss the situation arising from the destruction and desecration of Babri Masjid [mosque] in India. APP quoting diplomatic sources says the meeting will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York tonight. It will be attended by delegates of Muslim countries to the world body. The leader of the Pakistani delegation to the UN General Assembly, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, will address the meeting which is expected to issue a statement expressing outrage and anguish of Muslim countries over the demolition of the Babri Masjid. It will call on the Indian Government to take steps to protect life and property of the Muslims as well as their religious and cultural rights. It will also establish an ICO contact group to consider further action in this regard at the United Nations.

At home, life is at standstill as the nation observes the day of protest to register its deep indignation at the desecration of the Babri Masjid by Hindu fanatics. Shops, business centers, commercial establishments and educational institutions are closed and rallies as well as processions are being taken out throughout the country. In Islamabad, some of the rallies belonging to different sections of the society tried to march to the diplomatic enclave to stage a protest demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission. However, the local administration allowed only their representatives to proceed to the high commission and present memoranda reflecting their sentiments. Reports of protest demonstrations, processions and rallies are also pouring in from Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Jacobabad and other parts of the country.